



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Office of Aviation Safety
Western Pacific Region
November 14, 2017

MAGNETO EXAM REPORT

WPR17LA140

This document contains no embedded photos.

A. ACCIDENT

Location: Bella Vista, CA
Date: July 2, 2017
Aircraft: Robinson R44, Registration Number: N488AS, Serial #:
NTSB IIC: Howard Plagens

B. EXAMINATION PARTICIPANTS:

Howard Plagens
Senior Air Safety Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board
Federal Way, WA

Nicole Charnon
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Continental Motors Inc.
Mobile, AL

C. SUMMARY

Examination of the recovered magnetos was conducted on November 15, 2017, at the facilities of CMI, Mobile, AL. No evidence of preimpact mechanical malfunction was noted during the examination of the recovered magnetos.

D. DETAILS OF THE INVESTIGATION

1.0 Magneto Examination

CMI personnel connected the right magneto to a test stand and observed steady spark at all rpm.

CMI personnel connected the left magneto to a test stand and observed steady spark at low rpm but erratic spark above rpm. CMI personnel installed an exemplar capacitor on the magneto, and observed steady spark at all rpm. They tested the original capacitor on a test stand, and it was not within specified limits. They observed corrosion on the connecting fitting. After removing a section of insulation on the wire to the fitting, the capacitor tested within specified limits. The corrosion likely developed after the helicopter was removed from the water; the exam occurred 4 months after the accident.