



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Date: March 1, 2018

Time: 1000 – 1020 PST

Person Contacted: John A. Slykerman

Subject: WPR18CA096 (NTSB IIC telephone interview with accident pilot)

On March 1, 2018, the day following the accident, the NTSB IIC conducted a telephone interview with the pilot of the accident helicopter, Mr. John A. Slykerman. The content of the interview revealed the following.

In a telephone interview with the National Transportation Safety Board investigator-in-charge on the day following the accident, the pilot reported that the accident occurred while he was applying the final spray pass of the 12th load of fungicide to the target orchard field. The pilot stated that he thought he had enough fuel to finish the field and return to the loading site, but as he was finishing the last pass the engine quit. The pilot opined that he "just ran out of fuel." The helicopter then descended and impacted an almond tree before coming to rest on the ground. The pilot mentioned that there were no mechanical anomalies with either the airframe or the engine that would have precluded normal operation.

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