



RECORD OF COMMUNICATION

Michael Huhn
Air Safety Investigator
Western Pacific Region

Date: August 9, 2018
Person Contacted: Mr. Skyler Gardner (pilot)
NTSB Accident Number: WPR18LA214

Narrative: The following verbatim text regarding the subject accident was provided to the NTSB by Mr. Gardner on this date:

Took off from the loading spot [around 10am](#) located on the south west side of the field with 60 gallons of clean water and around 25 gallons of fuel, sprayed a portion of the field on the north end for about 3-4 seconds and turned off my spray and made my way to the east end of the field, entered the field around 50-55 mph and sprayed. Turned off spray and came up out of the field prior a about halfway through the field around 50 mph , at that time I also applied left peddle as I was coming out of the field and about power pole height I slightly lowered collective to assist in looking left, to take a look at the spray to double check that it was not drifting near the grass air strip that is directly east of the field . Immediately after apply left peddle and slightly lowering collective the helicopter turned left fast and was facing north with a shaking feeling. Immediately realizing the helicopter was yawing to far left I pulled slight up collective and applied right peddle to stop the left yaw and now I was facing north east with a shudder and low airspeed throughout the helicopter and descending. I nosed the helicopter forward slightly to regain airspeed, [at about 5-10](#) feet above the ground I pulled aft cyclic and then went forward cyclic to level the helicopter before the skids touched the ground. As i was going forward with the cyclic the torque gauge was reading 108-110 percent

One second or after hitting the ground fire was in the cockpit and I unbuckled and got out, immediately after getting out I reached back in to move the throttle to the closed position and flipped the fuel valve off, grabbed my phone from between the front seats and got away from the helicopter. From the time i came out of the field and the helicopter was on the ground was about 10-15 seconds

my loader came over with our water truck within 10 min of me being on the ground and we had water putting out the fire on the helicopter.

I do not know with certainty if atmospheric conditions or mechanical caused the incident that happened on 8-7-2018

Skyler Gardner