



## **Memorandum for Record**

**Fabian Salazar**  
**Air Safety Investigator**  
**National Transportation Safety Board**  
**Investigator in Charge**

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**NTSB Accident Number: WPR19LA087**  
**Aircraft Registration & Make/Model: N506PH / MD Helicopter 369E**  
**Accident Location: Kukuihaele, HI.**  
**Accident Date: 2/21/2019**

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**Patrick Kirchem**  
Witness

Interview date and time: February 21, 2019

At 6:53 I was heading to the aircraft on my 4wheeler. As the aircraft was approaching, I lost sight of it and when I came around the corner I noticed everyone from the ranch was running toward the helicopter. I looked back and saw it was on its side. My neighbor told me he flew right over his house and the engine didn't sound right. The engine was smoking and running on the ground. The pilot asked for help to shut off the engine. When I ran up to the aircraft two guys were trying to get the pilot out. I ran to grab a knife to cut him out but it was not needed. They had to lift the helicopter to get his arm out and break the glass to extract him out the front of the helicopter. I grabbed a fire extinguisher and performed fire watch while they tried to get him out, fuel was leaking out of the aircraft. I instructed someone to grab the paperwork from the aircraft and then get away from it. People were trying to find his phone but I told everyone to get away from the aircraft. I yelled at Zaria at 6:58 to call 911. The pilot was conscious, I asked him who the president was, his name, what year it was which he answered all correctly. Other people present told me the helicopter dropped from about 30 feet, hit the ground and bounced before it rolled on its side.

Later that day I saw on Big Island Scanner information concerning the accident and I let "Ben" who is the administrator of the site know not to post more information until more information comes out.

Note: "Focus" Performed onsite security for the wreckage from 21-23 Feb.

## PATRICK C. KIRCHM<sup>4</sup> AKA FOCUS Statement

Woke up around 6:30 am 2/21/19  
Checked my day bag. For the utility trip  
into Waipio Valley made coffee and ask  
Zaria our Interpreter what time it was,  
Having to meet at 7am at Pick up site  
She said it was 6:53 so we left the  
Coconut orchard 400 yds away from the  
LZ. Got on the quad started it up  
and that's when we heard the Helo  
Before spotting it over the Hilo side of  
the Ranch the sound was very choppy and  
loud not smooth as hearing it before from  
other times the Helo's have been here.

Traveling down the Hill from the Coconut  
orchard watching the Helo come in I noticed  
he kept it level and didn't do a Banked  
turn in like they usually do he then  
was almost over the top of me and Zaria  
about 200 yds from LZ I threw him the  
"Shaka" and Landing Lights came on.

I'm at Bottom of Hill lost sight of Helo  
until I was at the Gate near LZ

Zaria opened the Gate I immediately noticed  
no capture at the LZ Chris Carter and another  
person were running toward our Horse Paddock  
and I then saw the down Helo →

I Told Zarin to Call 911 7:06:58 am  
Jumped off guard Someone handed me a  
Fire extinguisher and went over the Fence to  
Hard Landing site where Chris was attempting  
to Remove Pilot I asked Chris if everything  
that ~~was~~ needed to Be Power'd off was  
off Because of Fire Risk Also Dripping Fuel  
Chris and another Got Pilot out and  
Clear of Zone. I did engage the  
Fire extinguisher One time to make Sure  
it was working.

After the Pilot was Removed we  
made a quick Attemp to GRAB anything  
inside that might Be Important - Be  
Cause of the Risk only 1 Item was Recovered  
Being the Pilots Log Entry Book. we  
then Secured the Site not allowing Anyone  
near it.

END





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**Robert Kapua**  
Department of Agriculture

Interview date and time: February 21, 2019

Around 07:00am the helicopter was approaching. I was getting ready and had my back toward the helicopter. I noticed the sound changed, very noticeable, and the aircraft dropped, bounced and slide on its side. We all rushed over to help pull the pilot out of the helicopter. The engine was stilling running on the ground. Someone helped shut the engine off and removed Rob from the aircraft. Rob was upset with himself for damaging the helicopter.

Weather was not bad, little clouds but the sun was out.

Feb. 21, 2019

## Helicopter Accident Statement

Around 700am heard Helicopter Coming in to land, At that time I started to get my equipment ready to load on the helicopter, I noticed the sound of the helicopter changed, I turned around and saw the helicopter hit the ground, Ran over and assist with removing pilot.

[REDACTED]



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**Chris Carter**  
Ranch Helper

Interview date and time: February 21, 2019

I saw the aircraft come in and it hit the ground. Once it hit the ground the tail part of the helicopter flew toward us and hit the fence. Seat cushions and the door had flown off the helicopter and hit the ground. I ran over and the engine was still running. Jet fuel was coming out. I was helping to get the pilot out. I got the seat belt out of the way and asked the pilot if he was okay. He said his arm was stuck under the door. We lifted the aircraft and he got his arm out. Two of us helped him out of the helicopter and moved him to the fence. We asked him some questions like his name which he answered correctly. We were trying to get his cell phone from the helicopter but couldn't find it. The ambulance showed up and they loaded him up.

Our neighbor, "Guy", said the engine sounded rough. I noticed it as well was not sounding normal but made a different noise.

Weather was no issue.