



Record of Conversation

Fabian Salazar
Air Safety Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board
Office of Aviation Safety – Western Pacific Region

NTSB Accident Number: WPR19LA194
Aircraft Registration & Make/Model: N3078G, Bell 47G
Accident Location: Mosby, MT.
Accident Date: July 13, 2019

Anna Brown
Passenger / Contractor
Monture Creek Land Management INC.
Seeley, MT.

According to Ms. Brown, she stated they had just completed refueling to park the helicopter. They were approaching the shop to land. The pilot was descending, and the helicopter swung to the right and started to ascend above the shop. She saw the pilot fighting to control the helicopter and she noticed the pilots left pedal “was all the way to the ground”. They spun over the silage pit by about 30 feet. She said at one point the pilot let go of the controls and put his arm across her. After the helicopter hit the ground, she heard someone yell “get out of the helicopter” She heard the pilot say, “I can’t move”. She saw the other passenger and a ranch-hand remove the pilot. She stated that there was no wind. She also said that during the last four days, the pilot was cautious and that she trusted him. She mentioned that the torque gauge had failed but after some troubleshooting, the problem was corrected.



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Steve Saunders
Passenger / Bridger Ag Ventures LLC.
Belgrade, MT.
Sub-contractor to Monture Creek Land Management Inc.

Mr. Saunders stated that they had been working for the past 4 days surveying land for noxious weeds. They were concerned about a hailstorm, and he received permission from a friend of his to land the helicopter and store it in his friend's shop.

He said the pilot had circled the landing area twice before coming into land. He said that while the pilot was hovering to land the helicopter it pitched from side to side and then the tail came around twice. He said the pilot tried to climb. He stated the building was about 30 yards away and he did not know if the wind coming off the building had any influence. He said as they were going up the helicopter was still spinning. He said that he blacked out and when he awoke, they were in the silage pit. He immediately got out of the helicopter and ran out of the fuel spill area. He first laid down but then got back up and saw the other passenger getting out of the helicopter. He went over to the pilot and tried to get him out but he couldn't lift him. He said another man came up and together they pulled the pilot out of the helicopter and dragged him away from the area. He said they were all covered with fuel. He stated that he thought the winds were steady from the west.