



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Samantha Link
Aviation Accident Investigator
Western Pacific Region

Date: July 17, 2020
Person Contacted: Mr. Paul Washburn (Western Helicopters Newberg, Oregon)
NTSB Accident Number: WPR20LA224

Narrative:

During a telephone conversation with Mr. Washburn he reported the following:

The helicopter impacted large trees in between Christmas tree fields. There were a few topped trees just west of the main wreckage, otherwise the helicopter descended vertically through the trees. It came to rest inverted, and at the base of a large tree. The helicopter was “completely destroyed” by impact and post crash fire. The forward fuselage exhibited extensive crush and thermal damage. The fuel tank was completely consumed, and the bottom of the transmission was exposed. The forward part of the tail boom also exhibited thermal damage. The main rotor blades were not present, but the paddles were. The tail rotor assembly was not visible. The spray booms were present and came to rest near the helicopter.

The truck operator reported to Mr. Washburn that there was no spray in the helicopter at the time of the accident. The helicopter was in the process of relocating to another field.

The pilot was likely flying ahead of the truck to check for workers in the field or other abnormalities. There were two sets of powerlines near this field, however, none of which were near the accident site. The pilot has flown these fields for many years, and he knows them very well.

Mr. Washburn mentioned that the turbine had been in and out of the engine three times in the past month. It was last installed about a week ago and the pilot flew it about three times since then.

END.

Submitted by: Samantha Link