



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Samantha Link
Aviation Accident Investigator
Western Pacific Region

Date: July 17, 2020
Person Contacted: Mr. Terry “Rez” Reznicek (Western Helicopters Salem, Oregon)
NTSB Accident Number: WPR20LA224

Narrative:

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

- The pilot, Mr. Harchenko, has been in the business for about 50 years; his dad owned the business prior to him. The business was purchased by Diversified Applications in December 2019 and their name was changed to Western Helicopters. There are two branches in the immediate area, Western Helicopters Salem and Western Helicopters Newberg.
 - o Mr. Harchenko was the branch manager for Western Helicopters Salem
 - o Mr. Paul Washburn was the branch manager for Western Helicopters Newberg.
- Western Helicopters Salem has two helicopters and Mr. Harchenko was the pilot for both of them.
 - o BTN was one of their larger customers and Mr. Harchenko had been flying their fields for many years.
- Mr. Harchenko also conducted all the maintenance on the helicopters. He would get some help from Mr. Reznicek and Mr. Scott Cockran (Western Helicopters Newberg).
- Mr. Reznicek reported that the helicopter had recently undergone maintenance:
 - o Recently, the turbine section was timed for an overhaul, all four wheels were due.
 - o Action Aircraft in Texas conducted the overhaul.
 - o After overhaul, Western Helicopters installed it onto the helicopter and flew it for about 12 hours. They noticed there was a little rubbing during the shutdown sequence, when the turbine was “coasting to a stop”.
 - o They removed the turbine section and sent it back to Action Aircraft for repair, but once it made it back to Western Helicopters, they had the same issue.

- Therefore, they removed the turbine section again, and returned it to Action Aircraft.
- About a week before the accident, they received the turbine section back from Action Aircraft and Western Helicopters installed it onto the helicopter.
- Mr. Harchenko flew the helicopter for the past three days and the helicopter had been running “fine and smoothly.”
- Mr. Reznicek reported that the helicopter was in very good shape and that Mr. Harchenko “takes the best care of the helicopters”.
- They do a lot of Christmas tree work and are so busy with aerial application that they have scaled back other parts of the company.
- Mr. Reznicek reported that a truck operator was helping the pilot. The truck operator said that Mr. Harchenko had just finished spraying a field and left the truck to fly to another field when he heard Mr. Harchenko call on the radio saying, “he was going down.”
 - The pilot did not report any issues with the helicopter to the truck operator prior to the accident. It was a routine morning.

END.

Submitted by: Samantha Link