

Investigator Name
Title
Division

Date: July 30, 2020

Subject: WPR20LA244

Contact: James Brownell, Supervisor Aviation Safety Inspector, Federal
Aviation Administration

The helicopter had traveled from out of state to conduct an external load lifting operation to change out antennas on a nearby cellular telephone antenna site. The pilot landed at an alternate site and was driven to the antenna site. After inspecting the cellular antenna site and conducting a safety briefing, the pilot returned to the helicopter and communicated with his support truck driver, that he would be flying to the support truck location to obtain fuel and prepare for the lift work.

It is believed that the pilot attached a steel braided cable to the aircraft belly hook and flew toward the support truck.

The helicopter crashed approximately .39 miles from where the support truck was parked.

A section of the helicopter tail boom, including the vertical stabilizer, was found approximately 327 feet from the main wreckage.

A steel braided lift line was found attached to the helicopter belly hook and was wrapped around the tail rotor of the aircraft.