



Record of Conversation

Fabian Salazar
Air Safety Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board
Investigator in charge

NTSB Accident Number: WPR20LA283
Aircraft Registration & Make/Model: N314 / Kaman K-1200
Accident Location: Pine Grove, OR.
Accident Date: August 24, 2020

Interviews

Mark Duffy
Owner Central Copters Inc. / Father of the Pilot

September 28, 2020. During a telephone interview, Mr. M. Duffy stated that he had talked with his son on the day of the accident, about an hour before the accident. He stated that his son was doing well and had no health or physical problems. Mr. Duffy stated that his son was not concerned about anything with his work and stated that "It was totally normal". He said as far as fires go, this one was not very intense and didn't have a lot of helicopters working it.

When asked about the request for a longer line, he stated that some of the dip sites were close to trees. He thought it was probably the mechanic who wanted the longer line based upon what he had heard. He mentioned that they had a 20 or 25-foot extension that they had. When asked about the pilot's experience, he stated that his son started flying the K-max about ten years ago. He stated the he was very familiar with the helicopter. He did more of the difficult operations like oil drilling equipment. Only the accident pilot and the father did this type of helicopter support.

When asked about a second pilot for the fire, he mentioned Tyler Burrows and maybe Brian Siglar may have worked in that area, but not that fire.

When asked about Central Copters, he said that it started in about 1984. He said his Dad started in about 1965. In the early 80's Mark started running the program. He said they specialize in long-line external cargo type stuff. They hold Part 133, 135, 137 certificates and utilize an FAA

approved General Operators Manual and a Safety Management System (GOM and SMS). They had four K-Max's, one Bell 214 B1, three A-stars and two R-66's. The A-stars and the R66's are on the Part 135 certificate. He stated that they employed up to 8 pilots. The company employs a total of about 25 people.