



Memorandum for Record

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

NTSB Accident Number: WPR20TA039
Aircraft Registration & Make/Model: Enstrom / F28
Accident Location: Bluffdale, Utah
Accident Date: December 11, 2019, 1630 MST

Dennis Goggin
Helicopter owner

Mr. Goggin stated that he owned the helicopter and was in the process of cleaning it up in order to transport it. He said that he could not get to the helicopter with the forklift, so he decided to relocate it. He flew the helicopter with the intention of relocating it on his property. On his first recollection of what happened he said that “when he was coming in, he had a tail rotor strike, and he lost this tail rotor.” He thought that he was about six feet above the ground. He also stated his main rotors hit some tall brush and that spun him around and put him right onto the ground.

When asked, Mr. Goggin stated that he did not have a pilot’s certificate, nor a current medical certificate. He said that the last time he flew a helicopter was a couple of years ago. When asked if he hit the tail rotor while on the approach, he initially stated yes, then changed his answer to not knowing. He said that “when he hit, he wanted to go-around once more to line it up better. He said he increased collective and then, bang”. He said he then pushed the collective down because he was so close to the ground he just landed.

When told of a witness who said he saw the helicopter come into land then pop up about 40 to 50 feet in the air, Mr. Goggin stated that that was not true. He said that he did not come in that hard. He then reiterated that he came in, lost, his tail rotor, then the main rotor hit the brush and a tall ten-foot tree, it spun him around and he landed and pushed the collective down.

When asked if anything mechanical occurred that could have caused this problem, he stated that he believed it was so because he could not figure out why he lost the tail rotor. When asked if it

started spinning when it was close to the ground, he stated that he was “up higher when it started spinning on him, maybe ten feet.”

He stated that he had 250 hours in the helicopter.