

Tara Creel-Cesena

From: Wilson, Ron <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 10:29 AM
To: Tara Creel-Cesena
Cc: Dickson, Lauren E
Subject: Air Methods Flight Crewmember Statements - AS350 Refueling Incident 041622

Good Morning Tara,

Below are the statements that we collected from the medical personnel who were part of the crew from this past Saturday evening. If you need anything further, please let me know.

On April 16th at approximately 2223 Native 7 landed at Deer Valley Airport and stayed running to do a hot fueling. The Cutter aviation fuel truck pulled up to the helicopter. RN Brooks and Medic Malia stood outside the rotor disc as a rotor guard. RN Brooks was next to the fuel truck by the fire extinguisher and Medic Malia was on the right side of the aircraft outside the rotor disc. The fueling guy came over to Medic Malia and asked how much fuel was needed. Medic Malia told the fueller 85 gallons. The fueller grabbed the grounding cable and walked over to the fuel cap of the aircraft. The grounding cable would not lock in place and the fueller pulled on the cable. The cable still did not lock in place. The fueller then pulled the cable harder with a slight upward motion. This caused the cable to go up and into the rotor blade. There was a loud sound and the fueller fell to the ground screaming. Medic Malia gave the shut down sign to the pilot who immediately shut the aircraft down and quickly stopped the blades from turning. The fueller was then escorted away from the aircraft about 20 feet. RN Brooks grabbed the scene bag and began to render aid by applying trauma dressings and wraps along with direct pressure and elevation of the arm. Both hands were wrapped up and bleeding was temporarily controlled. Medic Malia called 911 to get an ambulance to respond to transport the fueller. EMS showed up at about 2230 and took the patient to the ambulance for transport and treatment.

Josh Malia /Paramedic/CBL
Native Air 7
Payson AZ

On April 16th at approx. 2223 Native Air 7 landed at Deer Valley Airport for fuel. The fuel truck was waiting for us near the helipad so the decision to hot fuel was made. Medic Josh Malia and RN Tausha Brooks exited the aircraft with helmets on and took position outside the rotor disc, near the fuel truck. Medic Malia was on the right side (Fuel side in front of the aircraft closest to the fuel truck and RN Brooks was on the left side (Pilot Side) watching the tail rotor. The Fuel tech Keith Douglass approached the right side of the aircraft with the grounding cable in hand. When Mr. Douglass tried to connect the cable to the helicopter skid the cable did not initially lock in place, so he made a yanking motion with the cable, and it still did not lock. He flung the cable upward and the cable hit the spinning rotor. I, (Tausha Brooks) heard a loud "explosion" sound and immediately saw Medic Malia motioning for the pilot (James Oest) to turn the helicopter off. James shut down the helicopter. I ran towards Mr. Douglass who was bent over with blood coming from his hands. Medic Malia called Aircomm and 911. I grabbed the scene bag and was able to bandage Mr. Douglass's hands as well as help him make phone calls to his manager and his mom while waiting for Phoenix Fire to arrive on scene.

Tausha Brooks RN
Native Air 7
Payson, AZ

I've Cc'd Laruen Dickson on this email. She is one of our managers from our Human Resources Departement.

V/r,
Ron



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