



Tealeye Cornejo
Air Safety Investigator (Field)
AS-WPR

Date: November 13, 2023
Subject: WPR24LA030, Helicopter accident
Contact: Charlie Witrado, Owner, West Valley Aviation

Mr. Witrado was not present at the airport when the accident occurred.

The pilot arrived at the airport and performed a preflight check of the helicopter with no issues. He started the helicopter and began to smell smoke in the cockpit and heard a "thud." The pilot shut down the helicopter, exited, and saw a fire in the engine area. The pilot used a fire extinguisher to put out the fire but could not extinguish the fire. The pilot called 911, and the responding fire department put out the fire. After the fire was out, leaking fuel was seen at the belly of the helicopter.

This was the first flight of the day. The helicopter had flown about 2 weeks prior to the accident and did not recall if there had been recent maintenance. The helicopter is inspected daily and at 25 hr. intervals.

Maintenance personnel identified an inlet fuel fire and surmised that a fuel line had separated.