



Tealeye Cornejo
Air Safety Investigator (Field)
AS-WPR

Date: November 13, 2023

Subject: WPR24LA030, Helicopter accident

Contact: Patrick Ramming, Pilot, West Valley Aviation

Mr. Ramming performed a preflight, the helicopter was started normally, went to idle, put his helmet on and turned on the GPS. He began to see and smell smoke. He looked outside and saw smoke coming from the top of the helicopter. He shut everything down, exited the helicopter, and called 911.

This was going to be his first flight of the day. The helicopter had been sitting for the past 2 weeks and hadn't been flown. He thinks that the chief pilot had maybe flown the helicopter during the 2 weeks.