

Kevin Slinker
Aviation Accident Investigator
AS-WPR

Date: 05/27/2026

Subject: WPR26LA199

Contact: [REDACTED] / Witness

During a conversation with the witness, she stated that she was preparing for a training flight with a student pilot on the ramp about 50 to 75 ft from the accident helicopter, N917SU. While conducting a preflight inspection, she observed the helicopter pitch forward and then pitch back. She stated that the tail rotor subsequently struck the taxiway, and a portion of the tailboom separated from the helicopter.

The witness stated that the helicopter then rotated about 180° to the right, rolled right, and the main rotor system separated before the helicopter came to rest in the grass adjacent to the parking ramp.

The narrative was reviewed with the witness, who agreed with the narrative.