



# Aviation Investigation Notification

|                                |                            |                         |            |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| <b>Location:</b>               | Townsend, MT               | <b>Accident Number:</b> | WPR21LA236 |
| <b>Date &amp; Time:</b>        | June 15, 2021, 17:00 Local | <b>Registration:</b>    | N398M      |
| <b>Aircraft:</b>               | Bell UH-1H                 | <b>Injuries:</b>        | 5 None     |
| <b>Flight Conducted Under:</b> | Public aircraft            |                         |            |

The NTSB is conducting a [Class 4 investigation](#) into this event. A preliminary report will not be issued but a final report will be released at the conclusion of the investigation.

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

|                                  |                          |                                       |            |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Aircraft Make:</b>            | Bell                     | <b>Registration:</b>                  | N398M      |
| <b>Model/Series:</b>             | UH-1H                    | <b>Aircraft Category:</b>             | Helicopter |
| <b>Amateur Built:</b>            |                          |                                       |            |
| <b>Operator:</b>                 | USDA FOREST SERVICE FEPP | <b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b> | None       |
| <b>Operator Designator Code:</b> |                          |                                       |            |

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

|   |                   |                                     |                       |
|---|-------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>     | VMC               | <b>Condition of Light:</b>          | Day                   |
| <b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b> | KHLN,3868 ft msl  | <b>Observation Time:</b>            | 16:53 Local           |
| <b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>     | 33 Nautical Miles | <b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>       | 32°C /9°C             |
| <b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>          | Clear             | <b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b> | 10 knots / None, 310° |
| <b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>                  | None              | <b>Visibility:</b>                  | 10 miles              |
| <b>Altimeter Setting:</b>               | 29.84 inches Hg   | <b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>   | CVFR                  |
| <b>Departure Point:</b>                 | HELENa, MT        | <b>Destination:</b>                 | TOWNSEND HELISPOT, MT |

## Wreckage and Impact Information

|                            |        |                             |                  |
|----------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Crew Injuries:</b>      | 1 None | <b>Aircraft Damage:</b>     | Destroyed        |
| <b>Passenger Injuries:</b> | 4 None | <b>Aircraft Fire:</b>       | On-ground        |
| <b>Ground Injuries:</b>    |        | <b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>  | None             |
| <b>Total Injuries:</b>     | 5 None | <b>Latitude, Longitude:</b> | 46.3245,-111.291 |

## Administrative Information

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**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Smith, Maja

**Additional Participating Persons:**

**Investigation Class:** [Class 4](#)

**Note:** The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.