

Gretz Robert

From: Gretz Robert
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2013 11:34 AM
To: Gretz Robert
Subject: FW: NTSB Follow-up

From: Creswell, Rob [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 05, 2013 2:25 PM
To: Gretz Robert
Cc: Ward, Marsha
Subject: RE: NTSB Follow-up

Mr. Gretz, We were hovering over a tree island and the helicopter started to get closer to the ground. I thought the pilot was just getting us closer. Then it felt like the tail hit and we went backwards and down to the ground. I did not hear any warning signs from the helicopter or the pilot before impact. I was injured I tore my right rotator cuff that requires surgery.

Robert Creswell

On Wednesday May 8th 2013 I was on a helicopter flight over Rotenberger WMA conducting a deer recruitment survey. The pilot was told to fly at an altitude of 200 feet and a speed of 70 mph. We were near the NW corner of the property heading west on transect 19 when the pilot was asked to go back east to a tree island we had just passed so we could get a better look at it. Once we reached the island the helicopter was hovering over it and then started to drop very quickly. I did not hear the pilot say anything nor did I hear any abnormal sounds from the helicopter. I had been watching most of the gauges (altitudes, gas, etc.) so I knew we were not out of gas. When the helicopter started dropping closer to the ground we started hitting the trees with the propellers and this seemed to pull the helicopter down quicker. I closed my eyes at this point and only reopened them once we were on the ground. The helicopter was lying on its right side so the two people on that side were in the water. There were at least two fluids I could see and smell coming out of the helicopter; one was a reddish color I believe was hydraulic fluid and the other was gasoline. I was the first one to climb out and was a little disoriented. Everyone else seemed ok and climbed out right after me. The pilot seemed very upset, scared and shocked. He was very thankful that we were all ok. One passenger had a cell phone and we were able to contact people to come help us. A BSO helicopter came and flew us out of there approximately one hour later. All three of the FWC passengers left the scene without any major injuries but went to the doctor right afterwards. Two passengers had minor bruises and the third passenger we found out later had a partially torn rotator cuff that will require surgery.

Susie Nuttall

Gretz Robert

From: Gretz Robert
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2013 11:08 AM
To: Gretz Robert
Subject: FW: NTSB Case # ERA13LA242

Importance: High

From: Toledo, Susanna [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2013 10:28 AM
To: Gretz Robert
Subject: FW: NTSB Case # ERA13LA242
Importance: High

Hello Bob,

I'm Susanna Toledo, one of the passengers from Case # ERA13LA242. I am responding to your request for a summary of what happened that day.

Everything was going fine on that flight, nothing out of the ordinary. We were conducting our regular surveying techniques, like flying down to look at deer and hovering over certain things of interest on the ground. The pilot was safe and cautious throughout that flight and all previous flights as well, we never felt concerned. Towards the end of that survey I asked the pilot to hover over a certain area so I can get a good look at some vegetation on the ground. As the pilot was hovering and trying to get directly above that particular spot, I noticed we were getting really low, until it finally hit me that we were crashing. I can't be sure, but he may have said something about us going down right before we hit the ground. Once we hit the ground, the props hit the surrounding trees and that's when the helicopter lost control, flipped over and bounced around on its side. Prior to the crash, I didn't hear or see anything unusual, except us getting closer to the ground. I was sitting behind the pilot and couldn't see what he was doing. Once the helicopter settled down, we all exited the helicopter and everyone made sure everyone was okay. At first the helicopter was smoking a little, no fire, just smoke, but it stopped smoking shortly after. Then we made contact with others and were eventually rescued. I hope this helps.

Thanks,
Susanna