



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Investigator Name
Air Safety Investigator
General Aviation Accident Division

Date: 10/04/2018
Person Contacted: Alysha Garcia (medical crew)
NTSB Accident Number: GAA18CA571

Narrative:

Based on the telephone conversation with Alysha Garcia (Medical Crew 2), she was hired 4 months prior to the accident with about 40 fixed wing Emergency Medical Services (EMS) flights.

She stated that prior to departing from Artesia, NM, the flight crew quickly discussed the weather, but it did not include the destination briefing. She added that they were in the backup helicopter and the primary helicopter was in maintenance.

During the flight, she was under the impression that they were going to Rusidio airport but were directed to Ski Apache. She felt that this was atypical for the company.

Enroute, while going over the mountain, there was a quick discussion between the crew regarding the density altitude of the landing zone due to the high altitude. Also, the crew was trying to contact the Ski Apache ground personnel but they were not able to attain to reach them until there were in the area of the landing zone. The flight crew was trying to contact the ground crew on a UHF frequency provided prior to the flight but was intermittent. The ground personnel was able to warn them of the zip lines and was able to acquire the landing zone next to the switchback road.

She realized that the helicopter was going to land but after the approach was started, she felt they were descending faster than she was used to. About 2 feet from the ground, she called out a 12-inch ground barrier and the pilot maneuvered the helicopter and told the crew to hang on. The helicopter's tail boom moved away from the cable ground barrier and the helicopter bounced and went over the cable down the adjacent embankment and drifted to the bottom until the helicopter was stable and shutdown. The flight crew disembarked shortly after shutdown.