



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Central Region – Arlington, Texas

RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Who: Aaron Judkins, United Regional Hospital-based flight nurse

When: October 5, 2014

RE: CEN15FA003, Wichita Falls, TX

In an interview, Mr. Judkins stated that he was a flight nurse for Air Evac Lifteam and was based at United Regional Hospital.

Mr. Judkins stated he was in bed inside their crew-quarters, but had not fallen asleep. He heard the hospital-based pilot say that a company helicopter was inbound and he could hear it approaching the helipad. Mr. Judkins said that as he was putting on his jumpsuit, he heard the helicopter "power-up" followed by silence then the sound of a "crash." He and the two others immediately responded to the accident site. When they arrived on scene, Mr. Judkins saw the flight nurse and thought she was deceased until she started screaming for help. The pilot was crawling through the front windshield and his foot was stuck. There was a "winding noise" coming from the helicopter so Mr. Judkins helped him get out and away from the burning helicopter. He asked the pilot if he was ok, and he responded, "I don't know." He then turned to assist the flight nurse, but a team from the emergency room had just arrived and was helping her.

Mr. Judkins then saw the hospital-based paramedic dragging the injured paramedic away from the helicopter. He immediately realized the injured paramedic was a good friend and his flight partner. Mr. Judkins immediately went over to him and found the injured paramedic was alert and talking. He said they were on final approach to the helipad when the helicopter started to spin, but he wasn't sure why.

Mr. Judkins later asked the pilot what happened, and the pilot said "he wasn't sure." When he told him that the paramedic said that the helicopter had spun, the pilot responded, "yeah."

Leah D. Yeager
Sr. Air Safety Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board

