



## NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Central Region – Arlington, Texas

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### RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Who: Jason Arsenault, United Regional Hospital-based pilot

When: October 5, 2014

RE: CEN15FA003, Wichita Falls, TX

In an interview, Mr. Arsenault stated that he was a pilot for Air Evac Lifteam and based at United Regional Hospital. He said that he and the hospital-based flight nurse and hospital-based paramedic were in their quarters near the helipad when he heard the accident pilot announce that he was inbound. Mr. Arsenault heard the helicopter on final and told his crew to get ready so they could assist the inbound crew with the patient transfer.

Mr. Arsenault said that when he opened the door to the crew-quarters, he heard the helicopter arriving from the north. As the helicopter got closer, he heard "a change in rotor noise" followed by the sound of a "snap then bang then silence." Mr. Arsenault yelled to his crew that the helicopter may have crashed. All three immediately responded to the accident site where they found the helicopter upside down, facing west, and on-fire.

Mr. Arsenault said the flight nurse, who was seated in the rear right seat, was lying about 6-feet away from the helicopter. She was on fire and most of her Nomex flight suit had burned away. He used his flight jacket to help extinguish flames on her body until emergency room personnel arrived. The hospital-based pilot also saw the paramedic, who was seated in the rear, left seat, crawling out of the wreckage and the pilot was crawling out of the front of the wreckage. Due to the intense fire, there was no way to assist the patient. The pilot was in shock and saying, "Oh my God, Oh my God."

Mr. Arsenault then called the Air Evac Lifeteam's Communications Center and reported the accident.

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

