



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Central Region – Arlington, Texas

RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Who: Landry Lewis

When: October 9, 2014

RE: CEN15FA003, Wichita Falls, TX

In a telephone conversation, Mr. Lewis said he was a photojournalist for the NBC News 3 in Wichita Falls, TX. He was on-duty and returning from another news story when he witnessed the accident involving N335AE. Mr. Lewis said he was driving southbound on the central freeway and passing over Maurine Street when he first saw the helicopter. He said the helicopter appeared to be flying toward the “north” and its spotlight was turned on. As he continued to drive south toward downtown Wichita Falls, Mr. Lewis realized the helicopter was hovering over 10th and Grace Streets and he thought it was odd that the helicopter had not landed yet and maybe he was waiting for someone to clear off the helipad. Mr. Landry said the helicopter was hovering at a height that was equal to the height of the top of the hospital, about 100-120 feet.

Mr. Landry said that when he reached 9th Street, he saw the helicopter begin to spin to the right and move from its position over 10th and Grace Streets south toward the helipad. He said the helicopter entered the spin slowly and began to descend as soon as it started to spin. Initially, Mr. Landry thought the helicopter was going to land, but it continued to spin and descend. The helicopter then disappeared from his view behind a building. Shortly after it disappeared from his view, Mr. Landry saw sparks. He began to curse and called 911 while driving to the scene. Once he arrived on-scene the police and first responders were already there.

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