



## RECORD OF CONVERSATION

**Michael Huhn**  
**Air Safety Investigator**  
**Western Pacific Region**

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**Date: February 19, 2012**  
**Person Contacted: Mr. Dave Kunde (eyewitness)**  
**NTSB Accident Number: WPR12GA106**

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### **Narrative:**

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by Mr. Kunde in a telephone conversation on this date:

- He was a snowmobiler in the party which experienced the snowmobile accident which prompted the response by the helicopter
- After calling for assistance for the original snowmobile, he and Jay Melberg heard the helicopter, and rode their snowmobiles from the accident site to a clearing where they could see the helicopter
- They "flagged down" the helicopter from a clearing
  - The helicopter landed in the clearing
  - A person exited the helicopter to speak with them
  - They agreed to lead the helicopter on their snowmobiles to the accident site
  - The person re-boarded the helicopter
  - The helicopter then lifted off to follow them
- The witness was in the lead, and Mr. Melberg was following him
- The witness could not easily see the helicopter due to tree coverage and his helmet
  - He primarily kept aware of the helicopter by its sound
  - He also occasionally saw the shadow of the helicopter; the helicopter was usually behind him
- At some point he realized that he did not hear the helicopter, stopped, and turned around top his left and looked back
- He observed the helicopter spinning and descending
- He saw it spin "about three times" before it disappeared behind trees
- He did not hear or see anything further, including an expected "explosion" indicating a crash
- He and Mr. Melberg returned to their party to inform them that they thought the helicopter had crashed, and called 911 to inform the authorities of same

- They then returned to where they thought the helicopter was, but were unsuccessful in locating it
- When asked, he did not tell anyone that he saw the tail rotor stop spinning; he told the NTSB that it "looked like the tail rotor was going around"
- When asked, he said the spin direction was "counterclockwise;" he elaborated to state that the tail was moving left
- When asked, he could not provide an estimate of how high the helicopter was above the trees, due to the obstructions to his view [trees, helmet, and offset from helicopter]
- When asked, he estimated the trees to be about 40 feet high, but was quite uncertain- he did not pay attention to them
- When asked, he said there was "a little breeze" which he estimated to be about "10 mph" but again was quite uncertain; he clarified that it was not extremely windy