



## RECORD OF CONVERSATION

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

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**Date: February 17, 2012**  
**Person Contacted: Mr. Jay Melberg (Snowmobiler)**  
**NTSB Accident Number: WPR12GA106**

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### **Narrative:**

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by Mr. Melberg 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 Dave Kunde 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
- Mr. Kunde was in the lead, and Mr. Melberg was following him
- The witness did not 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
- Mr. Kunde stopped on the trail, and the witness also stopped, but not adjacent to him
- Mr. Kunde was signaling to the witness to indicate that he should look behind him; the indication was not clear to him
- He looked but did not see anything unusual
- At some point he realized that he did not hear the helicopter any longer
- He never saw the helicopter when it was following them
- He did not hear or see anything further regarding the helicopter; based on what Mr. Kunde told him, the helicopter had apparently crashed

- 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 said there was "a little breeze;" it was "not windy or cold;" it was "sunny"