

Michael Huhn
Air Safety Investigator
Western Pacific Region

Date: January 31, 2011
Person Contacted: Mr. Paul Panzica (Right Front Seat Passenger)
NTSB Accident Number: WPR11GA115

Interviewers: Deputy Bernstein/Deputy Gardner,
Date: 1/31/11
Time: 1540 MST
Location: University Medical Center

Narrative:

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by Mr. Panzica in an in-person conversation on this date:

- Seated in RH Rear seat
- Had met pilot previously
- Purpose of flight was to conduct a site survey
- Had been to area but not actual landing site before
- Witness was convinced that helicopter was coming in for a landing, but that fact was not explicitly stated by pilot
- Bounced, came up, pilot "oh s█", "violent spin," "rolled numerous times" until helicopter stopped
- Didn't know if hard or soft landing
- Thought it started rotating to the left, then rotating to the right, then "s█t hit the fan"
- Didn't hear any alarms; his alarm was pilot saying "oh s█"
- Helicopter didn't stay on ground, "it bounced"
- Couldn't see where they were due to fact he was in rear seat
- No discussion among occupants about exactly where to land
- Pilot did point out different site that he landed at the previous week
- Witness said "goal was to get closer to the peak" (which was the proposed tower site) to explain why helicopter/pilot didn't land at same site again (not explicitly stated by anyone during the flight)
- Saw Ed was bleeding, witness asked Ed if he was OK, Ed responded yes
- Witness was concerned about fire, so he exited helicopter
- Witness went to the front of the helicopter, saw Larry Sayers was hurt/bleeding, Larry was trying to undo his belt, witness told him to stay put, witness pulled "all the cockpit off him,"
- Witness looked at pilot, saw pilot was unconscious. Witness didn't think pilot survived accident
- Never heard pilot say anything. Witness called pilot's name several times, but pilot didn't respond