



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Andrew L. Swick
Aviation Accident Investigator
Western Pacific Region

Date: April 20, 2020
Person Contacted: Daniel Britton-Pilot
NTSB Accident Number: WPR20CA127

The NTSB duty officer who initially took the accident call sent the pilot a follow-up text message:

-Maja Smith (Duty Officer):

“I know you said that [the] engine was producing power. Was there any mechanical issues?” ... “If you suspect there were mechanical issues, we need to investigate further and probably retain the airplane for the time being.”

-Daniel Britton:

“No mechanical issues at all. I’ve played back the flight and it was pilot error. Prior to takeoff, a large helicopter was hovering close to the runway. I believe I entered his rotor wash and lost lift.”

End of text communication.

In a follow-up conversation with the pilot over the phone, the pilot reported to me that he departed from a private airstrip earlier that day, landed in Oakdale (O27) to refuel, and was departing when the accident occurred. He reported that he couldn’t gain altitude and was attempting to return to the runway when he landed hard in an orchard. He also mentioned the large helicopter in the area and the possibility that he may have entered the helicopter’s rotor wash and lost lift.



Andrew L. Swick
Aviation Accident Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board
Western Pacific Region

RECORD OF CONVERSATION