



RECORD OF CORRESPONDENCE

Michael J. Folkerts
Aviation Accident Investigator
Central Region
NTSB Accident Number: CEN13FA192

Several witnesses noticed the accident helicopter as it flew toward the accident site and provided the following information. The NTSB air traffic control specialist's report, located in the docket, contains a depiction of witness locations relative to the helicopter's flight path.

- Witness #1: Jonathan Lewis, a previous Navy helicopter mechanic, provided a cell phone video of the helicopter as it passed by his position. He stated the helicopter's rotor system sounded abnormal as it flew by, making a loud, screeching noise. He stated the helicopter appeared to slow down like it was going to start an autorotation, then the helicopter's tail rose up and it started to spin. He heard a loud boom and saw a plume of smoke.
- Witness #2: John Wheeler, a previous helicopter pilot for Era Helicopters, stated that he observed the accident helicopter in a shallow descent as it passed near his house about 600 feet above ground level. He stated that the helicopter's rotor system was producing an unusual, grinding noise as it passed over his house. He noticed the helicopter was flying at slower than normal cruise speed. After watching the helicopter pass by his house, he walked into his house to avoid directly viewing a possible crash. As he walked back outside, he noticed smoke plumes north of this house.
- Witness #3: Dawn Huddleston, who worked for Era Helicopters in the past, noticed the helicopter spinning out of control and fall out of the sky. She thought the helicopter spun four or five rotations.
- Witness #4: Cory Broussard, a mechanic for an oil company, stated the helicopter flew near his house, making whistling type of noise as it flew toward the Lake Charles Regional airport. At 100 to 150 feet above the ground, he noticed the helicopter pitch down and then spin for about five revolutions. He stated that he did not hear any noise from the helicopter as it was spinning. After the helicopter impacted the ground, he noticed flames and smoke.

Accident Location



Broussard Rd

#4

#2 (helicopter pilot)

#3

#1 (cellphone video)

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Imagery Date: 5/5/2013 30°01'21.00" N 93°09'00.27" W elev 10 ft eye alt 19443 ft