

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Public Correspondence
Date: Tuesday, September 25, 2012 9:15:35 AM

Mr. Simpson,

I have forwarded your email to the investigator-in-charge of this accident. Thank you for your information.

" Promoting transportation safety through excellence, teamwork, and diversity"

Melba D. Moye
Chief, Records Management Division
National Transportation Safety Board
Office of the Chief Information Officer
490 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20594

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----
From: publicmail@ntsb.gov [<mailto:publicmail@ntsb.gov>]
Sent: Saturday, September 15, 2012 12:43 PM
To: Public Comment - Web
Subject: Public Correspondence

The following request was received from the NTSB web site:
Raymond Simpson

[REDACTED]
Lawrenceville New Jersey 08648
[REDACTED]

Message: I witnessed a helicopter crash this morning in West Windsor NJ and wanted to register with NTSA as a witness in case you needed witness statements. I was not able to find any way to do it on your site.

Anyway, here is the info. I was in the parking lot adjacent to Home Depot in West Windsor, waiting for the Rita's Ice to open. I heard a helicopter overhead and looked up to watch it. The time was 11:58 am, give or take a minute. The helicopter was flying straight at first, then started what looked like a maneuver, which I thought was strange, because one seldom sees much maneuvering of helicopters at reasonable altitude. A few seconds (10 to 20?) after teh "manuever" teh main rotor failed. I ould see two rotor blades separate from the helicopter and the helioper plunged nose down. I did not see the impact, because the helicopter disappeared from view behind Home Depot. Shortly thereafter, a thick smoke plume appeared above and behind Home Depot. Shortly after I saw the rotor separation, I heard a single "bang" like a mall explosion or backfire.

That's about all there is to say.

If you wish to talk with me, I can be reached at [REDACTED] during business hours.

Raymond W Simpon

From: [Colleen Brophy](#)
To: [Gretz Robert](#)
Subject: Helicopter Crash
Date: Monday, September 17, 2012 7:37:10 PM

On September 15, 2012 approximately 12PM I was traveling on QuakerBridge Rd towards Rt. 1. I was stopped at a light (first car in line) on the corner of QuakerBridge Rd and the entrance of the Mercer Mall, about 100yards before Rt.1 on ramp. I witnessed a white helicopter hovering to my left (southeast). I could see the whole side of the helicopter, which was pointed towards the east. I watched the helicopter make a hard left hand turn and immediately turned over with its belly to the sky. As it turned the propellers broke off the helicopter. Immediately the helicopter nosedived straight to the ground. During the decent it corkscrewed approximately 160 degrees. However, the helicopter remained completely perpendicular to the ground until it disappeared behind the line of trees. Shortly after, I saw a plume of smoke, fire, and debris coming from the area. The entire scenario lasted approximately 20-25 seconds.

In my opinion, the pilot had no time to react after the helicopter banked hard to the left.

If you need any other information please feel free to contact me.

Thomas Brophy
[REDACTED]
Randolph, NJ 07869
[REDACTED]