



MEMORANDUM OF RECORD

Eric Alleyne
Air Safety Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board
Office of Aviation Safety - Eastern
Region

Pilot: Gary Juan Marquis
Interview date: 4/8/2022
Time: 0750
Aircraft: N7057L
Subject: Accident Event Statement

The statement below was taken by the NTSB Duty Officer via telephone interview from the pilot in command.

According to Mr. Marquis (PIC) he took off from Lake City, FL. on a short flight to Trenton FL. He said that the conditions he took off in were less than favorable and the ceiling was at 200 ft with a visibility of ½ mile. As he flew along his route, he could not get over 250 ft. and the ceilings lowered to 100 ft. He said that his helicopter was only VFR rated so he had to stay at 100 ft. or below. As the conditions got worse, he decided to fly towards State Road 47 and follow that road to his destination. About a ½ mile down the road he said that he entered "white out", he attempted to make a 180° turn, but the tail rotor hit a branch and the helicopter entered a right spiral turn. The helicopter continued to spiral until it crashed on its right-side adjacent the road. Mr. Marquis said that he and his grandson were seriously injured, and this was "Pilot Error". He also mentioned that the helicopter was totaled.

Gary Juan Marquis