

Aaron Sauer Sr. Air Safety Investigator Office of Aviation Safety - Central Region

Date: 10/18/2023

Subject: CEN23FA333

Contact: N22EL Pilot - Mr. Eric Bruce

According to Mr. Bruce, due to the injuries sustained in the accident, his recollection of the accident was extremely limited. Mr. Bruce recalled the following events on the day of the accident; balloons operating near the ultralight field earlier in the day, the AirVenture 5K run was going on, and attending the rotorcraft pre-flight briefing for that day's flight program. Mr. Bruce did not recall the details of the pre-flight briefing or the accident flight. Mr. Bruce did recall some moments of the next day in which he was in the hospital and heavily medicated.

When asked if he recalled the day prior to the accident, Mr. Bruce stated he attended the morning daily pre-flight briefing (which was Mr. Bruce's first day attending the briefings) and also completed a waiver which was required for flying during the program. He recalled the briefing contained a discussion about traffic; flying is not a race, stay to the inside pattern if need to pass, and there was no discussion on performing 360° turns.

AirVenture 2023 was Mr. Bruce's first event in which he flew his gyroplane; he had attended AirVenture in the past but had never flown during the event. He trailered his gyroplane to AirVenture and planned to attend an event in Indiana after AirVenture. Given Mr. Bruce's experience with gyroplane operations, he was asked by ELA Aviation USA to assist visitors at the AirVenture exhibit with answering questions. Visitors who were interested in obtaining a ride or demonstration flight would be provided an opportunity if it worked for the schedule.

Over the years, Mr. Bruce has provided 100's of rides to various people in his aircraft as he wanted to share the experience with as many people as possible. In retrospect,

Mr. Bruce said due to the chaotic nature of flying at OSH during AirVenture, he would never consider doing it again.

-- END OF CONVERSATION--