



## RECORD OF CONVERSATION

**Dr. David Bowling**  
**Senior Air Safety Investigator**  
**Central Region**

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**Conversation with: Tony Bonham, Vice President, Air Evac Lifeteam**  
**NTSB Accident Number: CEN22LA122**

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I spoke with Mr. Tony Bonham on February 16, 2022. He reported that his parent company Global Medical Response (GMR) holds 12 certificates for both air and ground ambulance companies, Air Evac Lifeteam being one of them. They have over 40,000 employees. In response to the accident that occurred on February 11, 2022, involving a Bell 206L-4, where a flight crewmember was seriously burned when two lithium batteries exploded in her flightsuit pocket, GMR issued a Safety Alert on February 16, 2022, to all of its employees. The Safety Alert warned of the potential fire and explosion dangers of batteries that power personal electronic devices (PEDs) as e-cigarettes, and outlined several safety measures which includes:

Using caution when carrying these devices (PEDs) in your pockets. Multiple layers of clothing could create a condition for overheating.

To never carry spare batteries in your pocket as these batteries can overheat and come in contact with other metal causing thermal runaway or explosion.

Avoid storing devices that contain lithium or lithium ion batteries in areas where they may overheat, as near external heat sources, under multiple layers of clothing, in direct sunlight, and under multiple layers of clothing.

Patients being treated or transported may have these batteries on their person. Be aware of these risks and secure these devices appropriately.

Mr. Bonham provided me with a copy of the Safety Alert.

As taken by  
David Bowling