



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
Western Pacific Region – Federal Way, Washington

Record of Telephone Conversation

Person Interviewed: Rod Baker
Subject: – WPR22LA140, N9287U, Merced, CA
Date: 04/05/2022

During the telephone conversation Mr. Baker stated the following:

Mr. Baker was piloting N9287U on April 1, 2022, when it was involved in an accident near Merced, CA. Mr. Baker stated the accident flight was the fourth flight of the day and he was conducting an agricultural aerial application flight. He said prior to starting spraying operations he overflew the field to identify obstacles to his planned flight. The field had a wire crossing the field in the NE corner that he did not see during his overflight of the field, but there were other wires in the area he had seen, and the corner was “wired in.” He made his first pass spraying the center of the field from a north to south direction before approaching the NE corner of the fields from the south.

He overflew one set of wires as he approached the field corner from the south, “ducked down” into the corner to spray, and pulled up as he approached the edge of the field. As he pulled up he saw the wires and he tried to hit the wires with the wire cutter installed on the helicopter. The helicopter impacted the wires and descended into the ground.

Mr. Baker stated there were no mechanical malfunctions with the helicopter prior to the accident and the wires blended into the terrain and he did not see them until he pulled up.

Dan Baker
National Transportation Safety Board
Senior Air Safety Investigator