

Witness Statements

(7 Pages)

Summary of Interview with:

Mrs. Corrine Sardis

St. Ann Retirement Community

Date of Interview: Friday, February 22, 2013 (date of accident)

Time of Interview: Approximately noon

Other persons present for interview: Mr. Tom Littleton (FAA Office of Accident Investigation), Mrs. Lindsay Cunningham (American Eurocopter Accident Investigation), Mr. Lee Sardis (Mrs. Sardis' Husband)

Summary:

Mrs. Sardis was awake, in her bedroom, when she heard the helicopter come over, followed by the sound of the crash-impact. She said it sounded like the helicopter came over her building from the north and that it sounded like a very loud motor-type sound. It was a constant sound, not cutting in and out up to the time of the impact. When she heard the impact, she ran to her window and saw the helicopter on fire people running out to assist. She said after the initial impact, there were two more explosions. One of the two explosions blew out her next door neighbor's window. It was dark outside at the time. She said it probably took about five minutes for the fire department to arrive, but it seemed like longer than that.

Mrs. Sardis' apartment is on the third floor of the retirement community adjacent to the crash site. The window from which she observed the helicopter wreckage faces in an approximate south-easterly direction. Please see view of helicopter wreckage from window below (taken at approximately noon on the date of the accident).



View of accident site from Mrs. Sardis' apartment window taken several hours after the accident

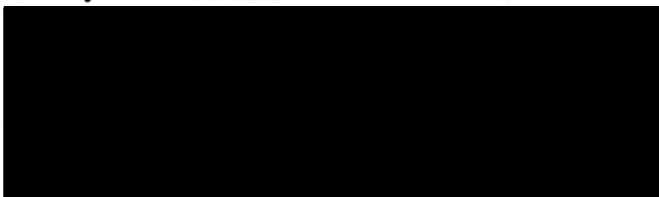
Mr. Fields, Per our conversation this morning, I am sending you this e-mail detailing my recollection of the events as they relate to the crash of the EagleMed helicopter on Friday morning, February 22, 2013, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

On that morning, I was in the downstairs bedroom of my home at 7314 NW 94th Street in Oklahoma City, preparing to go on duty with the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office. I was dressing in uniform when I heard what sounded like the EagleMed helicopter approaching my home from the southeast. This would indicate a recent lift off from Integris Baptist or possibly one of the other Oklahoma City hospitals located in that general direction. The particular type of aircraft used by EagleMed makes a very distinct sound and it is not hard to distinguish from other helicopters. As the aircraft flew over the area above my home, the engine of the helicopter very suddenly powered down so quickly that the engine noise became silent. I am unsure as to what altitude the aircraft was at, but before the engine went silent, it sounded as though it was maybe 500 to 600 feet above the house. This estimation is made from having lived in the Wiley Post Airport (KPWA) flight path for several years and observing different aircraft. I was inside my home at the time and did not physically see the helicopter.

When I heard the engine go silent, I glanced at the clock located on my computer desk in that room and noted that it showed 0542. In the ensuing few moments after glancing at the clock, I wondered what was going on. It was then that the explosion of the helicopter shook the walls and windows of every home in the area. My wife spoke to me from upstairs asking "what was that" and I told her that I thought a helicopter had just crashed. I quickly donned the rest of my uniform, but by the time I got out the door of my residence, Oklahoma City Fire and Police had the scene secured. I continued to my regular duty assignment and contacted your office a few hours later in the day.

Should you need any further information, please feel free to contact me.

Terry L. Hardin



Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office Radio 672



Fw: OKC Mediflight Mishap 2/22/13 some information

William A. Smith
ASW-OKC-FSDO-15, Oklahoma City, OK

Troy Fields, Dave
Doerner

02/25/2013 06:27 AM

Regards,

William A.(Bill) Smith
Manager, OKC FSDO
[REDACTED]

People First, Safety Always

Your feedback is greatly appreciated
[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded by William A Smith/ASW/FAA on 02/25/2013 06:26 AM -----

From: Thomas Solinski/AMC/FAA
AJW-3452, Reliability Sub-Team
To: William A Smith/ASW/FAA@FAA, Timothy D Wells/ASW/FAA@FAA, Steve Keesey/AMC/FAA@FAA,
Date: 02/22/2013 11:56 AM
Subject: OKC Mediflight Mishap 2/22/13 some information

Gentlemen,

I have one small piece of information to pass along to the investigation team. I live at 8317 Lakehurst drive roughly 4 miles due east and just south of the accident site.

I was facing the west when I backed out of my driveway this morning and saw a bright white-blue flash above my one story home. The flash reminded me of a power transformer failure.

I then drove east from my home to May Ave, then north on May, turn west on Britton then south on the Lake Hefner parkway. From the Britton Rd overpass on the parkway I could see the white smoke rising from the crash site.

Just a suggestion to look for possible power line/ power station impact around the site.

I am a graduate of the USAF Mishap investigation school and USAF Systems safety school and was System Safety Officer for the Presidential and C/KC-135 fleets from 1982 till 1988.

Thank you for your time.



Oklahoma City Medical Helicopter Crash 5:30 AM

Tracy Beamer

to:

William A Smith

02/22/2013 08:50 AM

Hide Details

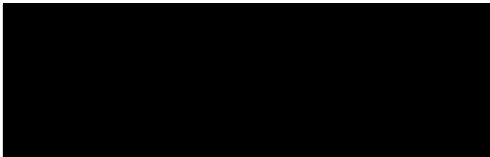
From: Tracy Beamer <[REDACTED]>

To: William A Smith/ASW/FAA@FAA,

Please respond to Tracy Beamer <[REDACTED]>

I was sitting in the parking lot straight south of where the helicopter landed. I saw lights flash so I looked up and it looked like it had just taken off from Wiley Post heading north west. It got over the cemetery and was kind of low so I thought it was a police helicopter looking for somebody. I noticed it was too low to the ground and it had rotated 90 degrees clockwise and was pitched 45 degrees nose down. I could not hear enough rotor noise for it to have power. Then I saw it disappear at the top of the hill on the horizon. That's when I knew it had gone down. It did not sound like it had enough power to do anything at all for the speed that it was moving. Please reply to let me know you have gotten this.

Tracy Beamer



Witness Statements

David Brett Rogers

I was on Rockwell headed south off of Talbot Canyon Road. Saw a flash in the sky that was high, not near the ground. The flash was similar to a transformer flash. I immediately noticed the position lights of the aircraft. Aircraft started heading in a downward trajectory. I turned right on to Britton Road (west). I was afraid that the aircraft may be going down. I saw smoke, then as I came up on the scene I saw the aircraft on fire. I ran up to the aircraft and saw the victim that was pulled from the aircraft rolling around on the ground with some women trying to help him. He was in pain. I was concerned that there was going to be another explosion so I asked him (the victim) for his hand and I drug him away from the fuel spill. I heard a sound that sounded like it was about to explode, then it did.

Recollection after statement: Saw the flash as soon as I turned onto Rockwell (South) off of Talbot Canyon Road. As soon as I saw the flash I immediately focused on the aircraft because I knew that something was wrong. Once it started descending the trajectory got steeper. Describe it as a loss of power or control.

Estella Stevenson

Employee at Saint Ann's

Arrived at work (St Ann's) at 5:41 a.m. A young lady ran in the building saying that there was a helicopter crash in front of her car. The fire alarms were going off in the building. We ran outside and saw the aircraft engulfed in flames. While in the building I never heard a helicopter. The victim was on the ground yelling and screaming. During the chaos there was an explosion. I could tell something was about to explode. Also, I never heard a helicopter in the vicinity as I was walking in the building at 5:41.

Vickey Tucker

Employee at Saint Ann's

Fire alarm went off, someone came in and said a helicopter crashed in front of my car. We ran out and the helicopter was engulfed in flames. I started taking video with my phone and co-workers were helping the victim/survivor. Fire Department and EMT showed up and had us move away.

Antonio Williams

[REDACTED]
Employee at Saint Ann's

Olga ran in screaming fire. I grabbed a fire extinguisher and ran to the flames, trying to put the fire out. I Didn't realize that it was a helicopter at first. Olga said help me get him out. So I grabbed him and pulled him out of a window. About 30 seconds later the aircraft exploded. A man walked up and helped pull the victim away from the explosion. He pulled him forward (North). During the time the victim said that there were 2 more people on board. The aircraft was engulfed in flames. I talked to him as we tried to put the fire out on his body. Kenny grabbed another extinguisher to put him out. Then the Fire Department and EMT's showed up. Fire Department had us leave the area.

Kenneth Johnson

[REDACTED]
Employee at Saint Ann's

I was working in kitchen. Olga comes in screaming fire. Olga grabbed an extinguisher and we ran out, I saw that it was a helicopter and that we needed more extinguishers because the aircraft was engulfed in flames and the grass was on fire. I ran in, grabbed an extinguisher and ran back out. By that time they had the victim out of the helicopter and I helped extinguish him. Then there was an explosion and it knocked us to the ground. Then I got back up and started putting out the fire near cars until the Fire Department showed up and took over.

Olga Arevalo

[REDACTED]
Saint Ann's employee

Arrived at work at 5:40 a.m. While parking my car I saw the helicopter flying. As I parked my car I saw the helicopter flying nose down but appeared to be normal. The helo hovered as if looking for a place to land. I thought it was a normal landing, then the helicopter started to angle down as if trying to land. He was not out of control and I thought it was a planned landing. Then the helicopter touched down and the impact wasn't violent but a fire started. Then I came inside, pulled the alarm and announced "fire" and grabbed an extinguisher and ran back out. I made eye contact with the victim and tried to pull him out, then Antonio came up and pulled him out. Another man came up and helped move him. As we were moving him there was an explosion. Then someone extinguished him. Fire Department showed up and took over.

Paula Kemavor

[REDACTED]
Saint Ann's employee

I went out to the back loading dock around 5:45 because Olga hollered "fire". I called 911 as I ran to the site. I didn't realize that it was an accident at first. It was engulfed in flames and I hear explosions. Olga and Antonio were with me. I saw an individual moving (saw his helmet) on left side of aircraft. Olga and Antonio grabbed the individual and pulled him out of a window. Victim was on fire. I was trying to put his clothes and helmet out because they were on fire and burning him. Victim was about 5 feet from aircraft. Helicopter exploded so we ran, then ran back to victim and started pulling his clothes off and putting the fire out. Kenneth ran and got a fire extinguisher and put the fire out on the victim. Victim asked me to pull his helmet off, so I did. His clothes were smoking and he was begging me to roll him onto his left side. During all of this we moved the body further away from helicopter. Fire trucks and EMT showed up and asked us to leave the scene.

Verretta McKinney

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Fire alarm went off in the building. We were all all grabbing extinguishers. Yaneira ran in and said that a helicopter crashed. I heard an explosion at some point. When I got out there the victim was on fire. I heard crackling sounds as it was burning. I was using my extinguisher to help put him out. He was asking for help and asking to roll him over on his left side. Then there was a second explosion. It knocked me down then I got up and ran inside. A man that was going to get donuts showed up to help.

Yaneira Martin

[REDACTED]
Saint Ann's employee

I was sitting in my car eating, it was dark. It was approximately 5:45 am. I heard a loud screech like brakes trying to stop. I ducked down and heard an explosion. I looked up and saw that the aircraft wasn't moving so I ran inside. I saw the aircraft fall, it wasn't going crazy. It was leaning towards my car, then it hit and skidded into the embankment. All of this happened in a few seconds. There was a fire immediately on impact. Weather was clear and cold. I did not hear any rotor or engine noise. When I ran back outside I didn't do anything. Antonio, Olga and Kenny were putting him out because he was on fire. The aircraft was in flames the whole time. The "screech" sound that I heard lasted a few seconds prior to impact.