

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Business Center

Aviation Management
Directorate
Aircraft Mishap
Initial Alert

***The following information is preliminary and subject
to change.***

MISHAP CLASSIFICATION: Incident with Potential

AMD MISHAP NO: 04-4N004-C-LLM

MISHAP DATE: June 25, 2004

TIME: Approximately 1029 PDT

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management

LOCATION: Vale, Oregon (N44° 18.2' W118° 03.2')

POINT OF CONTACT: Brad Gibbs, Bureau of Land Management,
(208) 863-6219

AIRCRAFT TYPE: Bell 212, N360EH

MISSION: Fire Suppression - Bambi Bucket

PERSONNEL ON BOARD: One

INJURIES: None

FATALITIES: None

COMMENTS: The pilot stated that he had been using a Bambi Bucket to apply water to a lightning-sparked fire near the top of a 7,000 foot mountain. Following a water drop the pilot reduced the power to return to the dipsite. While in a very low power descent (20-30% torque) the #1 engine N1, N2, and ITT started to drop off followed by the appropriate Caution Panel lights indicating an engine failure. Since the pilot was already in a low power descent he continued towards the helibase about 1 mile away. During the descent the #1 engine fire light illuminated and the pilot pulled the fire T-handle to shut off the fuel. The pilot selected a

suitable landing site and landed. When the bucket was approximately 10' above the ground the pilot jettisoned the bucket to avoid dragging it. After landing the pilot activated the engine fire extinguisher and shut down the aircraft.

There was no visible damage except for scorching to the duct between the particle separator and the exhaust and sooting and scorching to the vent line from the accessory gearbox to the exhaust.

The source of the engine failure and fire is under investigation by the vendor.

DOI INVESTIGATOR IN CHARGE: Steve Rauch (208) 433-5073