

On June 30, 2003 a Bell 212 Helicopter, was dipping water from a dirt tank to put on hotspots on the Picture Fire on the Tonto National Forest in Arizona. While dipping from the tank the first time, the pilot heard two distinct pops or snaps which he attributed to noises from the helicopter. After dropping that load of water, he returned to the dip site and while dipping heard two more popping noises and looking down saw a male on the bank of the pond holding a long gun to his shoulder. The male had the long gun pointed across the pond at the water bucket. The pilot left the area and upon returning to base, discovered that the collapsible bucket had numerous holes in it caused from being shot by a shotgun probably shooting #6 birdshot.

The bucket was impounded as evidence and the helicopter was grounded until a R-3 Regional Office Aviation team can inspect it.

The person who shot at the helicopter bucket was identified and arrested by Forest Service Agents and LEO's and is currently in jail in Maricopa County.

The helicopter is a Bell 212, owned by Kachina Aviation from Boise, Idaho. It is on contract to the USDOJ BLM out of Bakersfield, California. It was assigned to the Picture Fire, which is a Forest Service fire on the Tonto National Forest in Arizona.

Damages are currently estimated at \$5-7000 to replace the 324 galloon Bambi Bucket.