



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

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File Code: 5720

Date: 7/9/2020

Route To:

Subject: Preliminary Brief
Helicopter Accident, R3, Payson, AZ
Accident Date 7/7/2020

To: Kent Hamilton, Branch Chief, Aviation Safety Management System

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Location: Tonto National Forest, 11 miles West of Payson, AZ

Date of Mishap: July 7, 2020

Time of Mishap: Approximately 1216 Mountain Standard Time

NTSB Investigator in Charge: Stephen Stein

USFS Aviation Safety Investigators: Michael Reid and Eric Shambora

Mission: Longline / Sling Load

Phase of Flight: Approach to Helispot

Injuries: One fatality

Property damage: UH-1H Helicopter, destroyed per NTSB categorization

Narrative: On Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at approximately 1216 MST, a UH-1H helicopter, N623PB, impacted terrain with one occupant on board. The aircraft was performing long-line cargo delivery operations in support of fire suppression on the Tonto National Forest when the mishap occurred. The aircraft was under exclusive use contract with the USFS.

The NTSB investigation into this accident is ongoing. At this time, there are no indications of immediate safety concerns with other similar make/model of aircraft. All matters related to public information must be disseminated through the NTSB.

MICHAEL REID
USFS AIR SAFETY INVESTIGATOR

CC: Jennifer Martynuik, Region 3 Regional Aviation Safety Manager
Jami Anzalone, Region 3 Regional Aviation Officer

