



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

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File Code: 5720

Date: 3/30/2019

Route To:

Subject: 72-Hour Brief
Helicopter Accident, R8, Huntsville, TX
Accident Date 3/27/2019

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Location: Sam Houston NF, N of Houston, near Huntsville, TX

Date of Mishap: March 27, 2019

Time of Mishap: Approximately 1438 CDT

Mission: Prescribed Fire/PSD

Phase of Flight: Maneuvering over burn area

Injuries: One fatality, one serious (non-life threatening), one ambulatory

Property damage: AS350 Helicopter, damage extent "substantial" per NTSB categorization

Narrative: On Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at approximately 1438 CDT, an AS350 B3 helicopter impacted terrain and sustained substantial damage. There were three occupants on board the aircraft, performing PSD operations in support of prescribed fire on the Sam Houston National Forest, when the mishap occurred. The aircraft was under exclusive use contract with the USFS.

On March 29, 2019 the aircraft was removed from the Sam Houston National Forest and relocated to a hangar near Dallas, TX for further inspection. 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 outside of this notice and related to public information must be reviewed by the NTSB prior to release.

