



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Pacific  
Southwest  
Region

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Date: October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006

Route To:

Subject: Preliminary (24-Hour) Briefing

To: Regional Forester, Pacific Southwest Region

On Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup> 2006, an exclusive use Sikorsky S-64 helicopter, N189AC, operated by Erickson Air Crane had just emptied the portable retardant tank of retardant (approximately 200 gallons) and was going to add some water from another portable tank approximately 25 yards away from retardant tank. Attempting to put the snorkel into the portable water tank, the snorkel contacted the exterior side of the tank and was momentarily hung up on the flange of the tank.

The Investigation is continuing into what occurred after that point, but the aircraft begin to spin, hit the ground and rolled over.

Both pilots egressed the aircraft and were evaluated on-scene by paramedics, both pilots had minor abrasions. Both pilots were transported to a local hospital to be checked out, and were released that afternoon.

The helicopter was supporting the "Day" fire on the Los Padres National Forest.

The investigation was delegated back to the Region and field investigation is on going. NTSB has delegated the field investigation to Federal Aviation Administration and the USDA Forest Service, FS team members include:

Jim Morrison, QTI and Team Lead

Tracy Dott, Document Specialist

Ricky Howe, Aircraft Maintenance Inspector

Jim Ramage, Helicopter Pilot Inspector

/S/ James M. Morrison, QTI

