



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Alaska/Pacific
North West
Region (R6/R10)

709 West 9th Street
P.O. Box 21628
Juneau, AK 99802

File Code: 6730

Date: 09/27/2011 @06:30

Route To:

Subject: Preliminary (24-Hour) Briefing

To: Bov Eav, Pacific Northwest Research Station Director

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Location: 58 degrees 42.042 minutes North 134 Degrees 51.127 West (East of Echo Cove 3.5 miles on Davies Creek Ridge)

Date of occurrence: 09/26/2011

Time of occurrence: approximately 13:00 Alaska Standard Time (AST)

Team leader: Helicopter Manager

Mission: Set up Weather Site for Forest Sciences Lab PNW

Activity: Landing/Shut Down

Number injured: Zero

Number of fatalities: Zero

Property damage: Rotor Blades destroyed

Narrative: 09/26/2011 at Approximately 13:00 AST Coastal AStar 350BA N230CH with Helicopter Manager and Pilot on board had landed on Davies Creek Ridge. The pilot rolled the throttle to flight idle to start the 2 minute cool down and a strong gust of wind picked the helicopter up and laid it on it's side. The helicopter manager said she felt movement, looked out to discover the helicopter was lifting into the air about 5 feet and started to roll. The helicopter hit on it's side, the pilot shut down the helicopter and both exited the helicopter to discover fuel spewing from the helicopter. Both claimed to be ok to the two PNW workers who were on site, waiting to be picked up. The Helicopter manager phoned dispatch/Forest Aviation Officer and reported the incident. A helicopter was dispatched to retrieve the pilot/crew due to the remoteness of the site. They were all then transported back to Juneau and the pilot/helicopter manager was seen by a physician at the Bartlett Hospital Emergency room and treated then released.

The R6/R10 Aviation Manager was notified and he notified the National Aviation Safety Manager who is putting together an Accident Investigation Team, expected to be on site in Juneau by 09/27/2011 at approximately 14:00 AST.



cc: Ron Hanks, Tammy Verhunc
Safety Manager
Official case file

