

## Sorensen Tim

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 03, 2008 12:49 PM  
**To:** Sorensen Tim; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Remaining Witness Statement

Witness who had provided a witness contact number but whom had not given a statement:

Jerry Combs [REDACTED]

Mr. Combs had been a former Chief at the Fire Station from which the accident helicopter departed, and had returned as a "social" visit.

He is a trucker by trade and is not a licensed pilot. He was in direct line of sight to watch the helicopter depart.

He stated it departed normally. He confirmed that it cleared well over the power lines and the transmission tower. He said as it moved away from them, the "top blade came off". I asked if he noted if it appeared to be in one piece or if pieces of it came off? He stated from the distance he was at it appeared to be one piece. I asked if the fuselage then went straight down or if it continued forward at all. He stated the fuselage went forward for few seconds, at which point it dropped to the ground and a large plume of smoke erupted.

I asked if he noticed any other parts coming off the airplane. He said not that he remembered, but that there did appear to be a bit of "flame coming out of a exhaust pipe of the engine" just before it crashed.

Witness who I interviewed on scene for which we did not have a written statement.

Michael Cole [REDACTED]

Michael was one of the fire personnel who was on scene post accident working and was also a witness from the firehouse. He stated the helicopter came in, landed south. The pilot did a short "preflight" type activity in which he put his hand on the tail rotor and moved it. I asked if he lingered on any one area, and he said "no". He said the aircraft departed, rotating to fast east. It cleared the corn east of the firehouse and the powerlines. He turned away and did not see anything after that, until others said there was a problem and they suited up to respond. He said based on the smoke and flames he did not believe there would be survivors but they were on scene in approximately two minutes to respond.

Linda Baker

Aug 31 -08

AT 2:23 pm

Got Back to Station

I was standing in  
Truck Bay 1 at Burney  
Chap Top FD watching  
The medic Helicopter take off  
watched him go out across Corn  
field as he test saw him  
clear over the High Voltage  
Power lines within seconds  
It appeared the Tail of the  
Helicopter broke off and the top  
propeller came loss from it  
and then dropped from the air  
There was no fire until ~~it~~ it  
hit the ground.

Scott Shields

Phone





witness



Peggy Israel

Grace Marley, our daughter, watched the helicopter go down as we were driving from Camp Joe Jackson's two properties into Burns (heading South). Looking back, Grace saw the helicopter come to pieces in the air. It exploded in the air like fireworks but it didn't have little pieces fall to the ground like a firework does. The helicopter exploded in air with no smoke or fire. It looked like a lot of shingles (like <sup>meat</sup> toy blocks) or helicopter skinny things & fell to the ground so that it landed on the ground or in trees. Grace also saw a ~~large~~ <sup>pack</sup> something dark (box shaped like a back ~~pack~~ <sup>pack</sup> located behind an object (whether it be a person or object) fall to the ground during the explosion. She saw a lot of things (pics) fall. Couldn't see them as a color, only black & no smoke until it hit the ground. She also saw another piece fall that looked like a fire helmet but not shaped like a helmet.

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
Mother of Grace Marley  
8/31/08

Grace Marley  
8 years old  
2nd Grade  
8/31/08