



National Transportation Safety Board



Alaska DPS

Eurocopter AS350 B3

Talkeetna, AK

March 30, 2013

Aaron M. Sauer

Investigator-in-Charge

Summary

- March 30, 2013, at 2320 ADT
- Eurocopter AS350 B3 helicopter
- Alaska DPS search and rescue flight
- 5 nm east of Talkeetna, AK
- 3 fatalities
- Dark night with no ground lighting
- Heavy snow and near zero visibility reported

Flight History

- At 2019, pilot received call, stranded snowmobiler near Talkeetna
- At 2117, flight departed Anchorage
- At 2142, picked up trooper at “Sunshine” landing zone
- At 2156, landed at rescue location

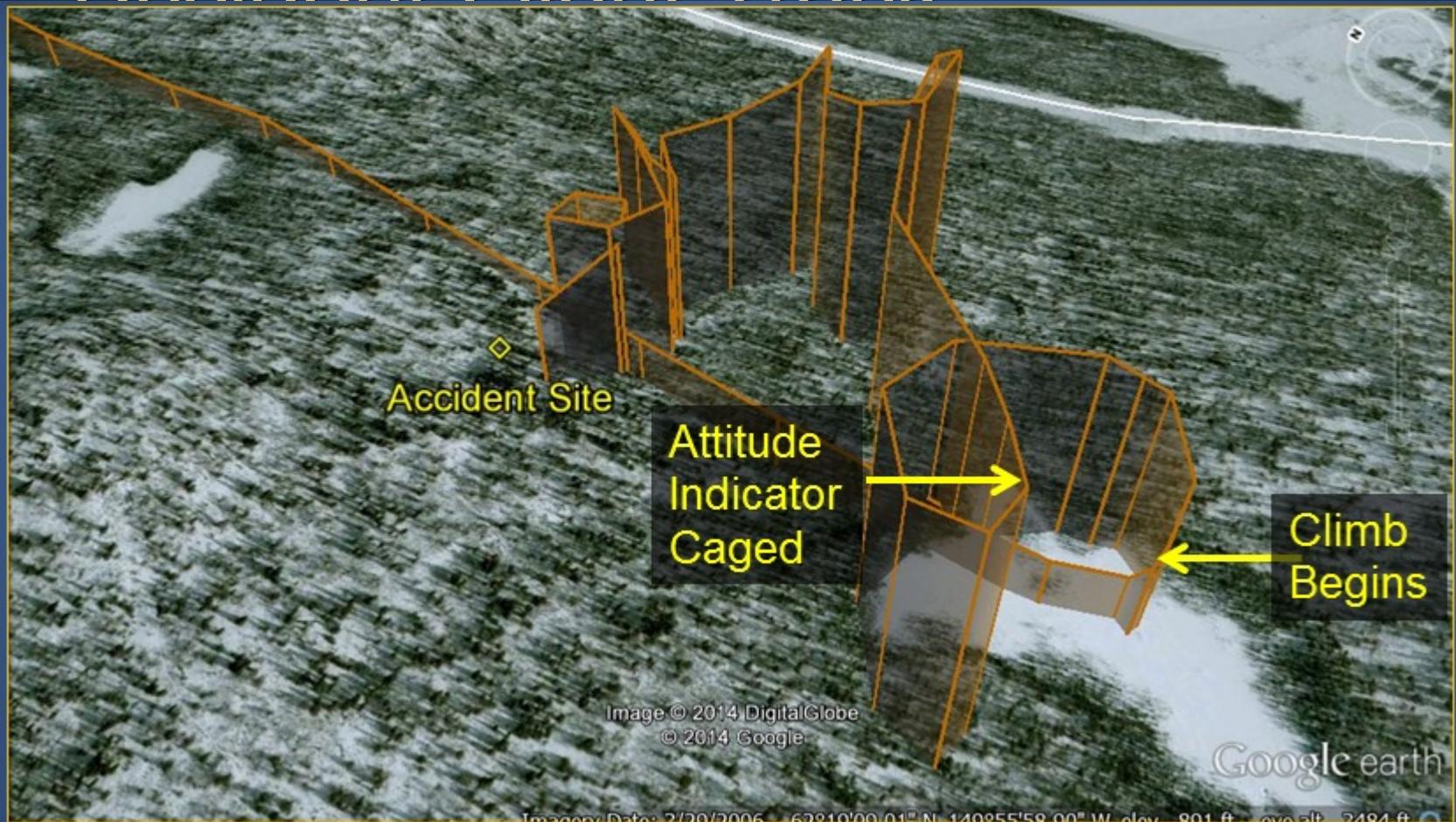
Rescue Location



Accident Flight Track



Accident Flight Track



Flight History

- At 0044 dispatch attempted to contact pilot and trooper
- Search delayed due to poor weather
- At 0925 accident site located

Accident Site



Findings

- Postcrash fire
- Appareo Systems Vision 1000 and GPS data recovered
- Pilot utilized NVGs during flight
- No mechanical anomalies noted
- Helicopter certificated for day and night VFR flight

Safety Issues

- Pilot decision-making, risk management
- Lack of organizational policies, procedures
- Pilot training – NVG and inadvertent IMC
- Dispatch and flight following
- Tactical flight officer program
- Punitive safety culture
- Lack of support for safety programs
- Attitude indicator limitations

Parties to the Investigation

- Federal Aviation Administration
- State of Alaska, Department of Public Safety

Accredited Representative

Bureau d'Enquêtes et d'Analyses
pour la Sécurité de l'Aviation Civile
(BEA)

- Airbus Helicopters
- Turbomeca



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