



**NTSB** National Transportation Safety Board

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*Office of Aviation Safety*



New Mexico State Police Photo

# **Agusta A-109E**

## **Santa Fe, New Mexico**

Jason Fedok

Search and Rescue

# Notification

- SAR notified within minutes of accident
- Two ground teams redirected to search for helicopter accident site
- New Mexico National Guard helicopters requested
  - Hampered by adverse weather

# Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT)

- Equipped with a 406-MHz ELT
  - Not required by FAA regulations
- Signal detected and location obtained within 65 minutes
- AFRCC provided location to ground SAR personnel

# Survivor

- Five additional ground search teams dispatched overnight
- Ground team located survivor about 1155 next morning
  - Had hiked short distance away from wreckage
- Airlifted to local hospital at 1230
- 406-MHz ELT instrumental in rescue

# Flight Following

- NMSP did not use flight following
- Flight-following units could be invaluable in remote mountainous terrain
- NMSP purchased portable flight following unit for helicopter use
  - Staff concerned about service plan's 5-minute update rate





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