



PRESS RELEASE

Case #14-260066

Helicopter Crash at Lumber Mill Injures California Man

July 3, 2014—Sheriff's Deputies responded to a helicopter that crashed on takeoff. The pilot received minor injuries.

On July 3, 2014, at 8:08 a.m., Washington County Sheriff's Deputies were called to Stimson's Lumber Mill in the community of Gaston concerning a helicopter crash.



Deputies responded and found a 1969 Bell 47G-3B-2 helicopter on its side in the gravel area next to the mill. The helicopter was a total loss from the extensive damage it received (photo attached). Deputies learned that the pilot was attempting to takeoff with a bucket suspended by cables underneath. The bucket was loaded with mosquito treatment that the pilot was planning on dropping into the log ponds.



The initial investigation reveals that on takeoff, the right landing gear became entangled in the cable suspending the bucket. Witnesses told deputies the helicopter reached a height of about 20 feet before it tipped to the side and crashed.

There were four men on the ground within 40 feet of the helicopter as it attempted to takeoff. The men saw there was trouble and ran for cover behind a nearby pickup. They narrowly escaped serious injury as debris and pieces of the aircraft were launched through the air, some damaging the pickup they were behind. Another large piece of metal was catapulted through the cab of a Dodge pickup and landed about 150 feet away (photo attached).

Sheriff's Deputies found that Warren Larson, 31, from Cloverdale California was the pilot and lone occupant of the helicopter. He was treated by medical personnel for head and arm injuries and released at the scene. Warren Larson was employed for Western Helicopter Services in Newberg at the time of the crash.

The FAA was contacted and responded to the scene to assist with the investigation.