



File Code: 5720

Date: August 25, 2020

Route To:

Subject: Preliminary Report, Kaman K-Max Accident, White River Fire, Mt. Hood N.F.

To: Kent Hamilton, Branch Chief, Aviation Safety Management System

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Location: White River Fire, Mt. Hood N. F. approximately 20 miles west of Wamic, OR

Date of occurrence: August 24, 2020

Time of occurrence: Approximately 1747 PDT

NTSB Identifier: WPR20LA283

Activity: White River Fire / Fire Suppression

Mission: Water Bucket Operations

Number of fatalities: One

Property damage: Kaman K-Max 1200, aircraft was substantially damaged per NTSB categorization

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Narrative: On Monday, August 24, 2020 at approximately 1747 PDT, a Kaman K-Max 1200 (N314) impacted terrain while supporting firefighting operations on the White River Fire on the Mt. Hood National Forest. The Pilot was the sole occupant in the aircraft and was fatally injured. The aircraft, under Call When Needed contract to the USFS, was conducting water bucket / fire suppression activities when the accident occurred.

As of this report, the aircraft remains in the field. Recovery is delayed due to fire activity. When able to be safely recovered, the aircraft will be moved to a location where a further inspection can be completed. A USFS Washington Office accident investigation team is assisting with the NTSB investigation. The investigation team will continue to work as party representatives to the NTSB investigation until completion.



A preliminary report will be made available on the NTSB web site (www.nts.gov). All matters related to public information must be disseminated through the NTSB.

Submitted by,

ERIC SHAMBORA
AIR SAFETY INVESTIGATOR

CC: Janine Belozier- R6 RASM, Bob Roth- R6 RAO, John Giller- R6 Fire Director, Paul Linse- Assistant Director Aviation, Julian Affuso- Assistant Director, Doctrine, Learning and Risk,