



OFFICIAL MEDIA RELEASE

KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT



Date: 05/29/2015

Complaint Number: 15-126066

Type of Incident: Helicopter Crash

From: Sgt. Sal Vitale

On 5/29/15 at 11:43 AM The Kent County Sheriff Department and Caledonia Fire Department responded to a helicopter crash which occurred in a wooded area near 76th Street and Thornapple River Drive in Caledonia Township.

Investigation revealed that a 1976 Bell helicopter owned by Hawkeye Helicopters based out of Ottawa, Kansas was checking power lines for damage when the helicopter crashed into a tree approximately 40 feet in the air.

The pilot, 55 year old Ken Wilson from Dolan Springs, Arizona and his passenger, 27 year old Raymond Osan III from Stockbridge, Mi. were able to extricate themselves from the helicopter and cling to the tree top.

The Caledonia Fire Department cut trees down to create a path through the woods for a bucket truck from Hydaker-Wheatlake Power Line Supply Co. which was able to retrieve the pilot and passenger from the tree.

The pilot and passenger were not injured and the helicopter sustained extensive damage.

The cause of the crash is under investigation by the Federal Aviation Administration who responded to the scene.