

From Helicopter prior along slings
(faxed to Derek Condie)

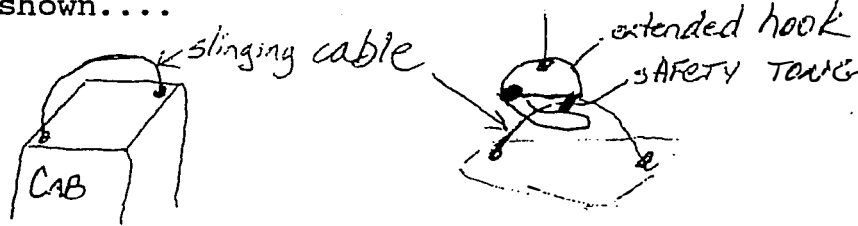
→ Victor Wells

October 7, 1996

003572

Statement re: Kabota Cab slinging incident of MM Claims, August 1996

I was requested to sling a Kabota Cab approximately 8 miles to the camp from the road staging area. I was immediately concerned about the strength of the homemade sling attached to the roof of the cab as it looked a little flimsy. This sling was attached corner to corner on the roof of the Cab. The individual doing the hook-up stated that the cable seemed strong enough, and after having a look myself I agreed. The Cab was then attached to my 50 foot extended hook as shown....



After slinging the load about half way to the camp I felt the helicopter rise sharply and observed the Cab free-falling to the ground. My initial reaction was that either the slinging cable had indeed broken or my extended hook had malfunctioned. Examination of the extended hook showed one, instead of two safety tongs. This however proved to be the normal for this particular hook and the extended hook was then used for 19 hours more slinging in two days and is to my knowledge still in use. It did not malfunction! Examination of the Cab sling showed it to be normal as well. It was apparent that in fact the sling had come back through the extended hook, unhooking itself in flight, due to gust oscillations through the cab while flying. See below.

