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News helicopter crashes onto NYC rooftop

LUKAS I. ALPERT
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NEW YORK (AP) -- A news helicopter covering a shooting Tuesday in Brooklyn clipped a building, spun out of control and crashed on a rooftop, but no one was seriously injured.

The helicopter had been sent to the scene by WNBC-TV. A reporter and two pilots escaped the crash and were hospitalized, WNBC said.

Police said the chopper clipped a four-story building before crash landing on the roof of a two-story dwelling in the middle of a block.

When officers arrived, two of those aboard had exited the craft on their own; the third was trapped for a few minutes.

None of the victims had life-threatening injuries, police said. No one on the ground was harmed.

Witnesses said the chopper sounded like a stuttering motorcycle before it went down.

"I could hear boop, boop, boop, like the sound of a motorcycle, but real loud," said Roger Green, who lives about a block from the crash site. "So I looked out the window, and it was spinning around out of control. And then it dropped down behind some trees."

The cause of the crash wasn't known.

Reporter Andrew Torres and the pilots, Russ Mowry and trainee Hassan Taan, are employees of Helinet Aviation Services, a California company, she said.



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