

# Two die in helicopter crash

A helicopter owned by Parsec, Inc. caught fire and crashed into the Gulf of Mexico early yesterday morning, killing the pilot and the only passenger. Dara Kale, 32, was flying the helicopter from Parsec's headquarters in Austin to a research vessel in the Gulf. Her passenger was Julian Levitz, 49, another Parsec employee.

"We are shocked and saddened by the loss of two great employees," said Charles Conophy, spokesperson for Parsec, Inc. "Dara and Julian

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were not just our employees, they were our friends. Our hearts go out to their families in this time of sorrow. We share their grief."

Officials were able to recover Kale's body but have not yet been able to locate the body of her passenger. They expect recovery efforts to continue today but hold out little hope., Francis Kramer, a spokesperson for the Coast Guard, noted that the water where the helicopter sank is turbulent. This is not the first such incident he has seen in the area, he said, and "after the first day, there's really not much hope."

Dara Kale is survived by her mother, Tonya, of Dallas. Julian Levitz is survived by his wife, Lynn, and two children, ages 10 and 13, of Austin.