

## RADIATION SICKNESS CAUSED BY UFOs

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### ABSTRACT

Throughout modern history UFOs have been blamed for numerous types of injuries to humans and animals. Most of these cases have been inadequately investigated because of pre-determined opinions about the existence of UFOs held by doctors, investigators, writers, and military people. The Cash-Landrum case is representative of a number of past cases, with one main exception - the victims have allowed a select team to delve into the details of the incident. The result is a well-documented record of injuries sustained by the victims; injuries that could have been caused by exposure to a radiation source.

### INTRODUCTION

October 24, 1887: Venezuelan family exposed to a brightly lit unidentified flying object (UFO) and suffered burns, vomiting, hair loss, and extensive swelling. (Reference 1)

May 20, 1967: Canadian prospector Stephen Michalak encountered a landed UFO and suffered burns, nausea, vomiting, swelling and an extended illness. (Reference 2)

October 3, 1973: Missouri truck driver exposed to an extremely bright UFO, blinded for days, and had vision impairment for a year. (Reference 3)

These and hundreds of similar incidents indicate that UFOs are seriously affecting people. How can these people be helped? What can we learn about UFOs by studying these human effects?

A small team of engineers, scientists, and medical specialists have formed Project VISIT (Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team), to be a clearinghouse for all UFO incidents involving medical injury or alleged entry into a UFO. VISIT members collect and analyze data on the physical effects of UFOs on people. This scientific and medical data is then examined to discover the probable mechanisms of the UFO. (Reference 4)

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A founding member of the Mutual UFO Network, Inc., Mr. Schuessler is presently the Deputy Director for Administration, a Consultant in Astronautics and a member of the Board of Directors of MUFON. As a staff member, he has written numerous articles for SKYLOOK and The MUFON UFO JOURNAL since 1967. John has been a featured speaker at MUFON symposiums at Peoria, IL in 1970, Quincy, IL in 1972, Kansas City, MO in 1973, and Clear Lake City, TX in 1980. He is an associate for the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) and serves on their Scientific Board of Consultants. John is a special consultant to the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO). He is the current president of Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team (VISIT) and a member of their Board of Directors. Mr. Schuessler is a founding member and past president of the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis.



Mr. Schuessler is employed by McDonnell Douglas in the capacity of Project Manager for Space Shuttle Flight Operations. He is a member of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) and a board member of the McDonnell Douglas Management Club where he also serves as their newsletter editor. John is a consultant to the Houston Area Universities in the NASA Student Experiment Get Away Special (GAS) Program. He is a member of the World Future Society.

In connection with the Cash-Landrum Radiation Case, John appeared on the nationally televised ABC-TV program "That's Incredible" and the NBC-TV program "Good Morning America" with Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum, and Colby Landrum. John's wife Kathy has illustrated several UFO cases in watercolor. His mailing address is P.O. Box 58485, Houston, TX 77258.



THE LATEST INCIDENT

The latest entry into the VISIT data base occurred on December 29, 1980, when three Texans encountered a UFO and suffered severe medical consequences. Betty Cash (age 51), Vickie Landrum (age 57), and Vickie's grandson Colby Landrum (age 7), were driving home to Dayton, Texas, on the Cleveland-Huffman road just north of Lake Houston. It was nine o'clock at night and the road was deserted. The first indication of something unusual was the presence of a very intense light several miles ahead just above the pine trees. Betty remarked about the unusual brightness, but temporarily lost sight of it due to the many trees along the road. (References 5 and 6)

Suddenly, hovering over the road only a short distance ahead was an enormous diamond-shaped object. Vickie said "it was like a diamond of fire." The glow was so intense they could barely stand to look at it. Vickie at first thought it was the fulfillment of biblical prophecy and expected Jesus to come out of the fire in the sky.

In addition to lighting the whole area like daytime the UFO periodically belched flames downward. Fearing they would be burned alive Betty stopped the 1980 Oldsmobile Cutlass without leaving the road. They all got out of the car to get a better look at the UFO. Colby was terrified and dived back into the car, begging his grandma to get back in, too. Vickie did and comforted Colby.

Betty stood momentarily by the driver's door and then walked forward to the front of the car. After much pleading by Vickie, Betty finally returned to the car. The door handle was so hot she used her leather coat as a hotpad to open the door. Although the winter night air had been about 40°F the heat from the UFO caused the witnesses to sweat and feel so uncomfortable that they turned on the car's air conditioner.

Each time the object would shoot flames downward it would rise. As the flames stopped it would drop in altitude. The intense glow, however, never changed. In addition, the threesome heard an irregular beeping sound throughout the sighting.

Finally, the flames stopped, the object rose to the southwest, and was lost from sight. Vickie and Colby commented that several helicopters could be seen above and beyond the UFO. Vickie said with relief, "we're safe and we're sound, but I'm burning and it's so hot."

Betty was directly exposed to the object 5 to 10 minutes, Vickie 3 to 5 minutes, and Colby only a minute or so. As Betty raced homeward she turned right on FM 2100. Five minutes had lapsed and just ahead was the UFO and a large number of helicopters. Betty said "the sky was full of helicopters." Some were near the object and others lagged behind. She feared the helicopters would collide. They were dazzled as they counted more than 20 helicopters. Vickie said "the helicopter roar was like a tornado."



They sped onward towards home, turning on to the Huffman-Eastgate road, then to FM 1960. By this time the object had been in sight, climbing into the night sky, for another five minutes. On FM 1960 the threesome were going away from the UFO, but could still observe it as a diminishing bright light for two or three more minutes.

#### UNUSUAL MEDICAL EFFECTS

Betty dropped Vickie and Colby in Dayton and arrived home at 9:50 PM, where her friend Wilma was waiting. Vickie said as she left the car, "my head hurts, I'm sick." Betty felt even worse. In addition to a terrible headache and nausea, her neck began to swell and red blotches appeared on her face and head.

December 29th was a turning point in the lives of Betty and Vickie. Betty, an unusually energetic woman, had plans to open a new restaurant. The sickness that followed ruined those plans. For the next four days Betty's health degraded. Her eyes swelled closed, the red blotches became blisters of clear fluid, and she was weak with diarrhea and nausea. The headaches never ceased. Because Betty was unable to function, Vickie was afraid she would die and set out to locate her doctor.

After a number of telephone calls a doctor instructed Vickie to take Betty to the hospital emergency room where the staff received and treated her as a burn patient. Over the next several days Betty lost patches of skin on her face and about fifty percent of her hair fell out. (References 7 and 8)

After 12 days in the hospital Betty went home, even though she had shown little improvement. Her condition again degraded to the point where she returned to the hospital for 15 more days. During the weeks that followed the incident Vickie treated herself and Colby with baby oil to stop the burning of their faces. Their stomach pains and diarrhea stopped after a couple of weeks, but their eyes are apparently permanently damaged and treatment continues. Colby had nightmares for weeks and was extremely frightened by bright lights in the night sky or by helicopters anytime.

#### SUMMARY OF THE MEDICAL EFFECTS

Colby	Erythema (reddening of the skin) Eyes swollen and watery Stomach pains Diarrhea Anorexia (loss of appetite) Some weight loss Increase in tooth cavities
Vickie	Erythema Photophthalmia (eyes swollen, watery, and painful) Vision greatly diminished



Stomach pains  
Diarrhea  
Anorexia  
Ulceration on the arms, resulting in scarring and loss of  
pigmentation  
Keratin affected resulting in fingernail damage  
Hair loss  
Hair regrowth of a different texture

Betty      Erythema  
Acute photophthalmia (eyes swollen closed, painful, watery)  
Vision impaired  
Stomach pains  
Vomiting, diarrhea  
Anorexia  
Loss of energy, lethargy  
Scarring and loss of skin pigmentation  
Excessive hair loss  
Hair regrowth of a different texture

#### KNOWN RADIATION EFFECTS

The electromagnetic spectrum is divided into groups according to wavelengths. X-rays and gamma rays have very short wavelengths; ultraviolet radiation, visible light and infrared have increasingly longer wavelengths. Since the regions overlap, an exposed person may suffer effects of more than one region -- x-ray and ultraviolet for example. (Reference 9)

Exposure to ultraviolet radiation can produce photophobia, photophthalmia (arc-eye), edema of the eyelids and erythema of the skin. Exposure to gamma and x-radiation can provide a strong general weakness, anorexia, nausea, vomiting, apathy, severe headache, sleeplessness, and dizziness. (References 10 and 11)

The symptoms provide a clue to the type of radiation exposure. The degree of illness depends upon the type and energy of the radiation, the dose, amount of exposure, and a number of other variables. However, there is no type of radiation that is not potentially dangerous to the eye. Certainly most of the listed symptoms can be found in the Cash/Landrum incident.

#### THE HELICOPTERS

All the witnesses were interrogated separately for information about the helicopters. They all agreed there were at least 20. Illumination from the glowing object clearly showed details of the helicopters even though the night was dark and the moon was in the third quarter. At least two different helicopter models were present, but they referred also to the one large thing amidst the helicopters.

Through use of helicopter identification charts one model was



clearly identified as the Boeing CH-47 Chinook. Another was identified as being similar to the Bell Huey model, but not positively identified as such.

Each of the witnesses not only identified the shape and main characteristics of the Chinook, they also pointed out details such as the wheels, lighting pattern and sounds.

Contact with the Houston Intercontinental Airport FAA representative provided the following: (Reference 12)

350-400 helicopters operate commercially in the Houston area.

All are single rotor types. (No Chinooks)

Helicopter traffic flies Visual Flight Rules (VFR), consequently they do not contact the tower.

Beyond 15 miles from the airport they must stay below 1800 feet.

The Houston radar is limited to 2000-2200 feet altitude around Lake Houston due to the location of the antenna.

Contact with military installations was of little help. Fort Polk, Fort Hood, Dallas Naval Air Station, and England AFB stated they did not fly into the Houston area that evening. The unit operating out of Ellington AFB in Houston had landed before the sighting time. Robert Gray Field had 100 helicopters come in from the field at one time "for effect", but claimed to have avoided the Houston area. Hence, no one claims the helicopters that filled the Huffman area sky that winter night.

### FOLLOW-UP

The investigation has not ended. We have maintained contact with the witnesses on a weekly basis for well over a year. This has resulted in a vast accumulation of information. The health status of the victims has been the most interesting result and the helicopter investigation the most frustrating.

Colby experienced an increase in tooth decay, loss of appetite, weight loss, periodic stomach pains, unusual hair growth on various parts of the body, and vision degradation. His health state did not start to improve until about December 1981.

The year was especially difficult for Mrs. Landrum. Not only did she have a personal health problem; but she worried continuously about Colby. His immediate problems were bothersome, but the possibility of long term effects such as leukemia weigh heavily on her mind. On the positive side, she sustained nearly total regrowth of her hair. On the negative side she has experienced severe fatigue, appetite loss, cyclic outbreaks of large sores, pulmonary problems, swelling of the legs and arms, increased susceptibility to infections, and extreme degradation of eyesight.



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Mrs. Cash has been totally unable to work due to her health state. She has been hospitalized seven times and three of those were in intensive care units. Skin eruptions, headaches, pulmonary infections and brittleness of bones have plagued her throughout this period.

Both Mrs. Cash and Mrs. Landrum have been 100% cooperative and have aided in the investigation in every way we have asked. I hope others will follow their fine example.

The helicopter part of the investigation has been another story. Early attempts to identify the source of the helicopters were futile. About the only serious reply we could get from Washington, D.C. was from Texas Senators John Tower and Lloyd Bentsen. They suggested that the victims submit a claim against the U.S. Government. That is now being done.

After media exposure through Science Digest, Omni, That's Incredible, and Good Morning America, a few other officials have become interested. Captain Jenny Lampley of the U.S. Air Force Liaison office in Washington, D.C. did a brief investigation and concluded that the Air Force probably was not involved since they do not fly CH-47 helicopters. (Reference 14)

The most active investigator has been Lt. Colonel George Sarran of the U.S. Army Inspector General Office. He has called a number of military installations to ask if they were involved, but without success. (Reference 15)

Major Dennis Haire of the 136th Transportation Unit at Ellington Air Force Base in Houston, Texas, has contributed a lot of information about the capability of the CH-47 helicopters stationed there and of the newer models stationed at Fort Hood. (Reference 13)

They all have the speed and the range to be involved in an event like the case at hand, but all claim non-involvement.

At this point it would be easy to provide an extensive listing of false and misleading information provided by a number of other military people, but since it was easily exposed, it would be counter-productive to say any more.

### CONCLUSION

This incident clearly points up several serious conditions. First, when a person is involved in a close encounter with a UFO they find it nearly impossible to obtain immediate assistance. The police, newspapers, and even doctors receive their plea for help with tongue in cheek. The doctors, being unprepared for a bizarre account like Betty's spend a lot of time trying to determine what is wrong, as a standard treatment method has never been defined.

Second, military organizations could better serve the citizens of



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the United States if they were prepared to relate the nature of objects such as the one at Huffman and others where public safety is at stake. Betty and Vickie have never said the Huffman UFO was a flying saucer with little green men. They believe it was a government sponsored operation of some kind. Others that saw and heard the helicopters that evening have the same feeling.

Third, UFO organizations usually do not cooperate to the fullest to help the witnesses. The Huffman incident is an exception. The Mutual UFO Network of Seguin, Texas, the Center for UFO Studies of Evanston, Illinois, and the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization of Tucson, Arizona, all cooperated in a responsible manner to assist the Houston-based Project VISIT to conduct the investigation by providing consultants, recommendations, and data pertaining to similar cases. Such cooperation is in the best interest of all parties involved.

### ONLY THE BEGINNING

The investigation continues. The future health state of Betty, Vickie, and Colby is yet to be determined. However, several radiation specialists have given freely of their time and talents to establish a program of rehabilitation and care. Full treatment is still lacking because the data on the source of the problem, the UFO, is still not available.

Project VISIT members are available on call for consultation. The address of VISIT is Post Office Box 877, Friendswood, Texas 77546.





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13. Private communication with Major Dennis Haire, Commanding Officer, 136th Transportation Unit, Ellington AFB, TX, March 1982.
14. Private communication with Captain Jenny Lampley, USAF Liaison Office, Washington, D.C., March 1982.
15. Private communication with Lt. Colonel George Sarran, U.S. Army Inspector General Office, Washington, D.C., March 1982.



Figure 1 Betty Cash, age 51, Dayton, Texas



Figure 2 Betty Cash, side view showing loss of hair.



Figure 3 Betty Cash, after being released from Parkway Hospital in Houston, Texas



Figure 4 Betty Cash, back of head showing approximately 50% loss of hair



Figure 5 Left to right: Colby Landrum age 7, Vickie Landrum age 57 after experience near Huffman, Texas



Figure 6 Vickie Landrum seven months after the event. The texture of her hair changed when it grew back. Compare to Figure 5 (Photo credit: Ron Zimmerman)



Figure 7 Left to right: Alan C. Holt, MUFON Investigator and Vickie Landrum at scene of sighting on Huffman-New Caney Road FM 1485

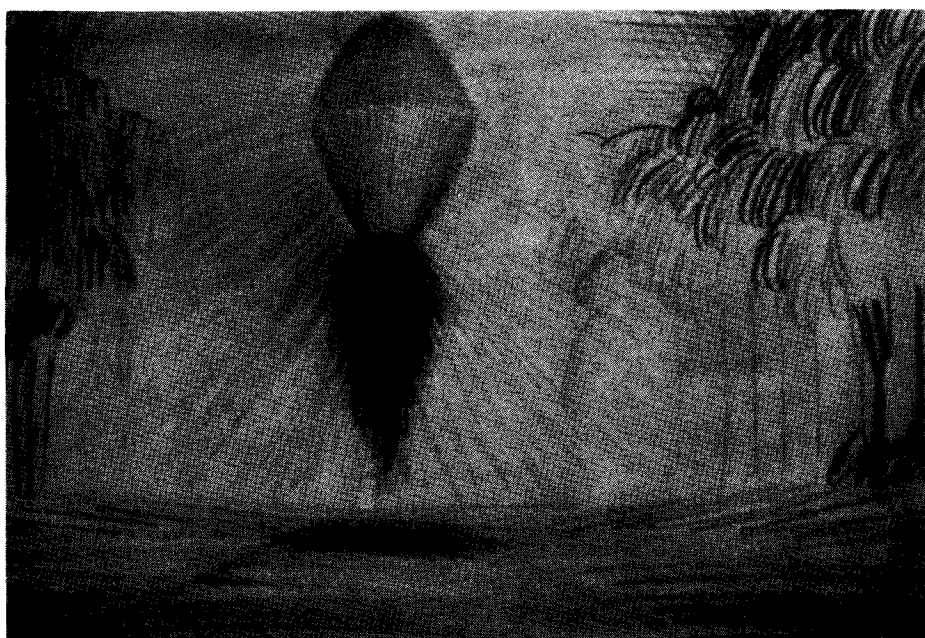


Figure 8 Artist's concept of diamond shaped object hovering over highway FM 1485 as described by Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum and Colby Landrum. (Courtesy of Kathy Schuessler)

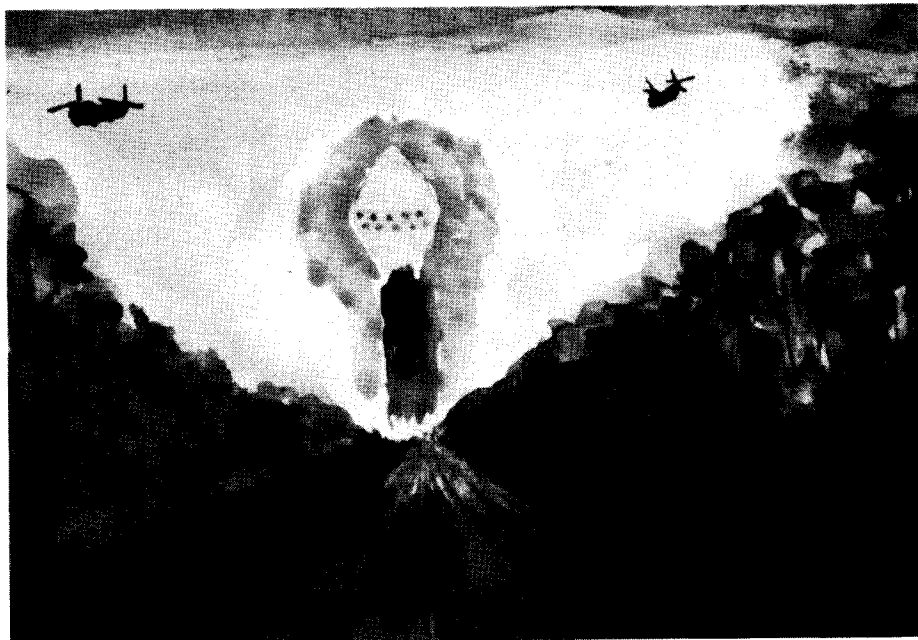


Figure 9 Artist's rendition of object hovering as helicopters immersed upon the scene.  
(Courtesy of Kathy Schuessler)



Figure 10 Photo of Boeing CH-47 Chinook helicopter.  
One of the type of helicopters identified by the three witnesses.



Figure 11 Vickie Landrum suffered from photophthalmia (eyes swollen, watery and painful). She now must wear glasses at all times.



Figure 12 Vickie Landrum. A sore on the back of her left hand which has not healed.



Figure 13 Photograph made during the filming of the ABC-TV program "That's Incredible", July 1981. Left to right: Betty Cash, Colby Landrum, and Vickie Landrum. (Photo credit: Ron Zimmerman)



Figure 14

Colby Landrum. Photograph made in Dayton, Texas in July 1981 during the filming of the ABC-TV program "That's Incredible". (Photo credit: Ron Zimmerman)