

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Vehicle Recorder Division
Washington, D.C. 20594

October 24, 2012

17 – Electronic Device Factual Report

Specialist's Factual Report
by Bill Tuccio

1. EVENT

Location: Houston, Texas
Date: September 10, 2012
Aircraft: Robinson R22 Beta
Registration: N281RG
Operator: Helicopter Services, Incorporated
NTSB Number: CEN12FA621

On September 10, 2012, at 1545 central daylight time, N281RG, a Robinson R22 Beta, was substantially damaged when it impacted a dirt service road in a steel pipe storage yard in Houston, Texas. The commercial pilot and the passenger were fatally injured. The helicopter was registered to and operated by Helicopter Services, Incorporated, Spring, Texas. No flight plan was filed for the aerial photo flight that departed Baytown Airport (HPY), Baytown, Texas, approximately 1500. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed for the flight that was conducted under 14 Code of Federal Regulation Part 91.

2. DETAILS OF DEVICE INVESTIGATION

The Safety Board's Vehicle Recorder Division received the following devices:

Device 1: Camera - Unknown
Device 1 Serial Number: unk
Device 2: Cell Phone - Unknown
Device 2 Serial Number: Unknown

2.1. Camera Device Description

A camera was received. Due to the damage, the make and model could not be determined.

2.1.1. Camera Data Recovery

Upon arrival at the Vehicle Recorder Laboratory, an exterior examination revealed the unit had sustained significant fire damage as shown in figures 1 and 2. No non-volatile memory¹ components could be retrieved.

Figure 1. Camera front.



Figure 2. Camera back.



¹ Non-volatile memory is semiconductor memory that does not require external power for data retention.

2.1.2.2.1. Camera Data Description

No data was recovered.

2.2. Cell Phone Device Description

A cell phone was received. Due to the damage, the make and model could not be determined.

2.2.1. Cell Phone Data Recovery

Upon arrival at the Vehicle Recorder Laboratory, an exterior examination revealed the unit had sustained significant fire damage as shown in figure 3. No non-volatile memory components could be retrieved.

Figure 3. Cell phone.



2.2.2. Cell Phone Data Description

No data was recovered.