



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Office of Research and Engineering
Washington, DC

Injury Factual Report

January 18, 2018

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Chief Medical Officer
NTSB

A. ACCIDENT: ANC16FA023; Skagway AK

On May 6, 2016, about 1855 Alaska daylight time, an Airbus AS350B2 helicopter, N94TH, collided with snow-covered terrain while en route to Skagway, Alaska, about 4 miles southeast of Skagway. The commercial pilot sustained fatal injuries, and the helicopter sustained substantial damage. The helicopter was registered to, and operated by, Temsco Helicopters, Inc., Ketchikan, Alaska, as a day, visual flight rules (VFR) flight under the provisions of 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 135 on-demand charter flight. Marginal visual meteorological conditions were reported on the Denver Glacier at the time of the accident, and company flight following procedures were in effect. The flight originated from the operator's heliport in Skagway, about 1840.

B. GROUP IDENTIFICATION

No group was formed to prepare this report.

C. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

Purpose

This investigation was performed to document the pilot's injuries.

Methods

The pilot's autopsy report was reviewed. Injuries to the 66 year old male pilot are described in Table 1, below.

Table 1. Pilot's Injuries

Pilot Injury Description
Multiple facial and scalp lacerations with subgaleal hemorrhage
Subarachnoid hemorrhage, diffuse
Periaortic hemorrhage, scattered along the arch and thoracic aorta
Fracture, sternum, at T3
Fractures, right ribs 3 and 4 anteriorly; left ribs 3-8 anterior and left rib 2 posteriorly
Hemothorax, left, 100cc with parietal pleural lacerations
Pulmonary contusions, small, scattered
Splenic lacerations less than one inch, medial surface
Multiple contusions of the upper and lower extremities

D. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The 66 year old pilot suffered a traumatic brain injury and serious chest and chest wall injuries as well as splenic laceration and multiple contusions and lacerations as a result of this accident.