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FORM APPROVED FOR USE THROUGH 7/31/96 BY OMB NO 3147-0001

<b>NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD</b> <b>PILOT/OPERATOR AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT REPORT</b> <b>This form To Be Used For Reporting Civil Aircraft Accidents</b> <b>Involving Commercial and General Aviation Aircraft</b>											
<b>Location</b>											
Nearest City/Place, State, Zip Code <b>PROVO, UT 84601</b>			Date of Accident <b>02-03-2005</b>		Local Time (24 HOUR CLOCK) <b>0800</b>		Zone <b>MT</b>		Elevation At Accident Site <b>10,100</b> Feet MSL <b>10,100</b> Feet MSL		
If The Accident Occurred On Approach, Takeoff or Within 3 Miles of An Airport, Complete The Following Information											
<b>Proximity To Airport</b>											
1. <input type="checkbox"/> On Approach		3. <input type="checkbox"/> Within 1/2 Mile		5. <input type="checkbox"/> Within 1 Mile		7. <input type="checkbox"/> Within 3 Miles					
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Within 1/4 Mile		4. <input type="checkbox"/> Within 3/4 Mile		6. <input type="checkbox"/> Within 2 Miles		8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beyond 3 Miles					
Airport Name			Airport Ident		Runway/Landing Surface Conditions:						
					1. <input type="checkbox"/> Direction:		3. <input type="checkbox"/> Width:		5. <input type="checkbox"/> Condition:		
					2. <input type="checkbox"/> Length:		4. <input type="checkbox"/> Surface:				
<b>Phase Of Operation:</b>											
1. <input type="checkbox"/> Standing		3. <input type="checkbox"/> Takeoff		5. <input type="checkbox"/> Cruise		7. <input type="checkbox"/> Approach		9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hover/Maneuver			
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Taxi		4. <input type="checkbox"/> Climb		6. <input type="checkbox"/> Descent		8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landing		10. <input type="checkbox"/> Altitude Of In-Flight Occurrence <b>10,100</b> Feet MSL			
<b>Aircraft Information</b>											
Registration Mark <b>N948F</b>		Aircraft Manufacturer <b>MD</b>		Aircraft Type/Model <b>369 HS</b>		Serial Number <b>7203475</b>		Cert Max Gross WT <b>3200</b>			
<b>Type Of Aircraft</b>				<b>Type Of Airworthiness Certificate</b>				<b>Amateur Built</b>			
1. <input type="checkbox"/> Airplane		5. <input type="checkbox"/> Blimp/Dirigible		1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Normal		5. <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted		1. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes			
2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Helicopter		6. <input type="checkbox"/> Ultralight		2. <input type="checkbox"/> Utility		6. <input type="checkbox"/> Limited		2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
3. <input type="checkbox"/> Glider		7. <input type="checkbox"/> Gyroplane		3. <input type="checkbox"/> Acrobatic		7. <input type="checkbox"/> Experimental					
4. <input type="checkbox"/> Balloon		8. <input type="checkbox"/> Specify		4. <input type="checkbox"/> Transport		8. <input type="checkbox"/> Specify					
<b>Landing Gear</b>								<b>No. Of Seats</b>			
1. <input type="checkbox"/> Tricycle—Fixed		4. <input type="checkbox"/> Tailwheel—Retractable		7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Skid				Flight/Cabin			
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Tricycle—Retractable		5. <input type="checkbox"/> Tailwheel—Retractable Mains		8. <input type="checkbox"/> Limited				Crew			
3. <input type="checkbox"/> Tailwheel—Fixed		6. <input type="checkbox"/> Amphibian		9. <input type="checkbox"/> Specify				Pass			
<b>Stall Warning System Installed</b>			<b>IFR Equipped</b>		<b>Engine Type</b>						
1. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes			1. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		1. <input type="checkbox"/> Reciprocating—Carburetor		3. <input type="checkbox"/> Turbo Prop		5. <input type="checkbox"/> Turbo Fan		
2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		2. <input type="checkbox"/> Reciprocating—Fuel Injected		4. <input type="checkbox"/> Turbo Jet		6. <input type="checkbox"/> Turbo Shaft		
<b>Engine Manufacturer</b>			<b>Engine Model/Series</b>		<b>Engine Rated Power</b>		<b>Type Of Fire Extinguishing System Used</b>				
<b>Rolls Royce</b>			<b>250-C20</b>		1. _____ Horsepower		1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None				
					2. _____ Lbs Thrust		2. <input type="checkbox"/> Specify				
<b>Engine(s)</b>		<b>Date of Mfg.</b>		<b>Mfg. Serial No.</b>		<b>Total Time</b>		<b>Time Since Inspection</b>		<b>Time Since Overhaul</b>	
Engine No. 1				<b>CAE 820630</b>		Hours		Hours		Hours	
Engine No. 2						Hours		Hours		Hours	
Engine No. 3						Hours		Hours		Hours	
Engine No. 4						Hours		Hours		Hours	
<b>Type Of Maintenance Program</b>				<b>Type Of Last Inspection</b>				<b>Date Last Inspection Performed</b>			
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual				1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual				(M/D/Y)</			

**Owner / Operator Information (cont.)**

Operator (Certificate Number) \_\_\_\_\_ Operator Designator (4 Letter Designator) \_\_\_\_\_

**Purpose Of Flight And Type Of Operation**
**Regulation Flight Conductor Under**

1. ☐ FAR91 (only) 4. ☐ FAR 121 7. ☐ FAR 133  
 2. ☐ FAR91D 5. ☐ FAR 125 8. ☒ FAR 135  
 3. ☐ FAR 103 6. ☐ FAR 129 9. ☐ FAR 137

**Purpose of Flight**

1. ☐ Personal 6. ☐ Aerial Observation  
 2. ☒ Business 7. ☐ Other Work Use  
 3. ☐ Educational 8. ☐ Public Use  
 4. ☐ Executive/Corporate 9. ☐ Ferry  
 5. ☐ Aerial Application 10. ☐ Positioning

**Operator Authority**

- FAR121  
 1. ☐ Domestic  
 2. ☐ Flag  
 3. ☐ Supplemental

**FAR 133**

6. ☐ Rotorcraft  
 External Load

**FAR125**

7. ☐ Large Aircraft

**FAR 135**

4. ☒ On Demand  
 5. ☐ Commuter

**FAR 129**

8. ☐ Foreign

**FAR 121, 125, 127, 129, 135**
**Revenue Operations**

1. ☐ Scheduled  
 2. ☒ Non Scheduled  
 3. ☐ Domestic  
 4. ☐ International  
 5. ☐ Passenger  
 6. ☐ Cargo  
 7. Specify \_\_\_\_\_

**Pilot Information**

Pilot Name CLAUS NAUER Pilot Certificate No. \_\_\_\_\_ Address SANDY UT 84070 Nationality US

**Certificate (s)**

1. ☐ Student 3. ☒ Commercial 5. ☒ Flight Instructor 7. ☐ Military 9. ☐ None  
 2. ☒ Private 4. ☐ Airline Transport 6. ☐ Flight Engineer 8. ☐ Foreign 10. Specify \_\_\_\_\_

**Rating (s)**

1. ☐ None 6. ☒ Helicopter  
 2. ☐ Single Engine Land 7. ☐ Glider  
 3. ☐ Single Engine Sea 8. ☐ Free Balloon  
 4. ☒ Multiengine Land 9. ☐ Airship  
 5. ☐ Multiengine Sea 10. ☐ Gyroplane

**Instrument Rating (s)**

1. ☐ None  
 2. ☐ Airplane  
 3. ☒ Helicopter

**Instructor Rating (s)**

1. ☐ None 6. ☐ Instrument Airplane  
 2. ☐ Airplane S.E. 7. ☐ Instrument Helicopter  
 3. ☐ Airplane M.E. 8. ☐ Ground Instructor  
 4. ☐ Helicopter 9. ☐ Specify \_\_\_\_\_  
 5. ☐ Glider

**Type Ratings/Student Endorsements**

Date Of Biennial Flight Review  
 or Equivalent (M/D/Y)  
12/7/2004

**BFR Aircraft**

1. Make MD 500  
 2. Model 369 HS

**Medical Certificate**

1. ☐ None 3. ☒ Class 2  
 2. ☐ Class 1 4. ☐ Class 3

Date Of Last Medical  
 (M/D/Y)

**Limitations**

NONE

**Waivers**

NONE

Date Of Birth (M/D/Y)

**Degree Of Injury**

1. ☒ None  
 2. ☐ Minor  
 3. ☐ Serious  
 4. ☐ Fatal

**Seat Occupied**

1. ☒ Left 4. ☐ Front  
 2. ☐ Right 5. ☐ Rear  
 3. ☐ Center

**Person At Controls At Time Of Accident**

1. ☒ Pilot In Control 4. ☐ Non-Pilot  
 2. ☐ Second Pilot 5. ☐ No One  
 3. ☐ Both Pilots

**Seat Belt Available**

1. ☒ Yes  
 2. ☐ No

Seat Belt  
 Used  
 1. ☒ Yes  
 2. ☐ No

Shoulder Harness  
 Available  
 1. ☒ Yes  
 2. ☐ No

Shoulder Harness  
 Used  
 1. ☒ Yes  
 2. ☐ No

**Source Of Pilot Flight Time Information**

1. ☒ Pilot Logbook 4. ☐ Company  
 2. ☐ Operators Estimate 5. ☐ Specify \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. ☐ FAA Records

Flight Time	All A/C	This Make & Model	Airplane Single Engine	Airplane Multiengine	Night	Instrument Actual	Instrument Simulated	Rotorcraft	Glider	Lighter Than Air
Total Time	4680	11.7	1011	38	582	65	253	3631	4	4
Pilot In Command (PIC)	3723	11.7	902	38	542	60	218	2783	4	4
Instructor	518	0	518	0	26	0	82	0	0	0
This Make & Model										
Last 90 Days	91	3.4	0	0	2.9	0	0	91	0	0
Last 30 Days	25	1.0	0	0	1.9	0	0	25	0	0
Last 24 Hours	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Second Pilot Information**
**Second Pilot Responsibilities At The Time Of Accident**

1. ☐ Co-Pilot 2. ☐ Dual Student 3. ☐ Safety Pilot 4. ☐ Check Pilot 5. ☒ None (Pilot-Rated Passenger)

Pilot Name \_\_\_\_\_ Pilot Certificate No. \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Nationality \_\_\_\_\_

**Certificate (s)**

1. ☐ Student 3. ☐ Commercial 5. ☐ Flight Instructor 7. ☐ Military 9. ☐ None  
 2. ☐ Private 4. ☐ Airline Transport 6. ☐ Flight Engineer 8. ☐ Foreign 10. Specify \_\_\_\_\_

Second Pilot Information (cont.)													
<b>Rating (s)</b>				<b>Instrument Rating (s)</b>				<b>Instructor Rating (s)</b>					
1. <input type="checkbox"/> None		6. <input type="checkbox"/> Helicopter		1. <input type="checkbox"/> None		1. <input type="checkbox"/> None		6. <input type="checkbox"/> Instrument Airplane					
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Single Engine Land		7. <input type="checkbox"/> Glider		2. <input type="checkbox"/> Airplane		2. <input type="checkbox"/> Airplane S.E.		7. <input type="checkbox"/> Instrument Helicopter					
3. <input type="checkbox"/> Single Engine Sea		8. <input type="checkbox"/> Free Balloon		3. <input type="checkbox"/> Helicopter		3. <input type="checkbox"/> Airplane M.E.		8. <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Instructor					
4. <input type="checkbox"/> Multiengine Land		9. <input type="checkbox"/> Airship				4. <input type="checkbox"/> Helicopter		9. <input type="checkbox"/> Specify _____					
5. <input type="checkbox"/> Multiengine Sea		10. <input type="checkbox"/> Gyroplane				5. <input type="checkbox"/> Glider							
<b>Type Ratings/Student Endorsements</b>				<b>Date Of Biennial Flight Review or Equivalent (M/D/Y)</b>				<b>BFR Aircraft</b> 1. Make _____ 2. Model _____					
<b>Medical Certificate</b>			<b>Date Of Last Medical (M/D/Y)</b>		<b>Limitations</b>				<b>Date Of Birth (M/D/Y)</b>				
1. <input type="checkbox"/> None      3. <input type="checkbox"/> Class 2					<b>Waivers</b>								
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Class 1      4. <input type="checkbox"/> Class 3													
<b>Degree Of Injury</b>			<b>Seat Occupied</b>			<b>Seat Belt Available</b>							
1. <input type="checkbox"/> None      3. <input type="checkbox"/> Serious			1. <input type="checkbox"/> Left      3. <input type="checkbox"/> Center      5. <input type="checkbox"/> Rear			1. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes							
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Minor      4. <input type="checkbox"/> Fatal			2. <input type="checkbox"/> Right      4. <input type="checkbox"/> Front			2. <input type="checkbox"/> No							
<b>Seat Belt Used</b>		<b>Shoulder Harness Available</b>		<b>Shoulder Harness Used</b>									
1. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		1. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		1. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		1. <input type="checkbox"/> Pilot Logbook      4. <input type="checkbox"/> Company							
2. <input type="checkbox"/> No		2. <input type="checkbox"/> No		2. <input type="checkbox"/> No		2. <input type="checkbox"/> Operators Estimate      5. <input type="checkbox"/> Specify _____							
						3. <input type="checkbox"/> FAA Records							
<b>Flight Time</b>	<b>All A/C</b>	<b>This Make &amp; Model</b>	<b>Airplane Single Engine</b>	<b>Airplane Multiengine</b>	<b>Night</b>	<b>Instrument</b>		<b>Rotorcraft</b>	<b>Glider</b>	<b>Lighter Than Air</b>			
						<b>Actual</b>	<b>Simulated</b>						
Total Time													
Pilot In Command (PIC)													
Instructor													
This Make & Model													
Last 90 Days													
Last 30 Days													
Last 24 Hours													
<b>Other Personnel</b>													
<b>Name</b>	<b>Seat</b>	<b>Address (City &amp; State)</b>			<b>Crew</b>	<b>Non-Revenue</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Non-Occupant</b>	<b>FAA</b>	<b>Fatal</b>	<b>Serious</b>	<b>Minor</b>	<b>None</b>
1.													
2.													
3.													
4.													
5.													
6.													
<b>Flight Itinerary Information</b>													
<b>Last Departure Point</b>			<b>Time Of Departure</b>		<b>Destination</b>			<b>Flight Plan Filed</b>					
1. Airport ID <u>BTF</u>			1. Time <u>0700</u>		1. Airport ID <u>FIELD STATE</u>			1. <input type="checkbox"/> None      4. <input type="checkbox"/> VFR/IFR					
2. City/Place <u>WOODS CROSS</u>					2. City/Place _____			2. <input type="checkbox"/> VFR      5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Company (VFR)					
3. State <u>UTAH</u>			2. Time Zone <u>MT</u>		3. State _____			3. <input type="checkbox"/> IFR      6. <input type="checkbox"/> Military (VFR)					
If Weather Was Involved, State If Weather Briefing Was Obtained or If Weather Reports Were Checked And How It Was Accomplished													
<u>NO</u>													
<b>Fuel On Board At Last Takeoff</b>				<b>Fuel Type</b>									
Gallons _____				1. <input type="checkbox"/> 80/87      4. <input type="checkbox"/> 115/145      7. Specify _____									
or _____				2. <input type="checkbox"/> 100 Low Lead      5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jet A									
Pounds <u>220</u>				3. <input type="checkbox"/> 100/130      6. <input type="checkbox"/> Automotive									
<b>Other Services, If Any, Prior to Departure</b>													
<b>Weather Information At The Accident Site</b>													
<b>Source Of Weather Information (Pilot/Operator, Weather Observation)</b>				<b>Light Condition</b>				<b>Visibility</b>		<b>Temp (°F)</b>			
<u>NWS</u>				1. <input type="checkbox"/> Dawn      3. <input type="checkbox"/> Dusk      5. <input type="checkbox"/> Dark Night				<u>10+</u> Miles		<u>30</u>			
				2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daylight      4. <input type="checkbox"/> Bright Night									

Weather Information At The Accident Site (cont.)					
<b>Dew Point</b>  <div style="text-align: right;">(°F)</div>	<b>Altimeter Setting</b>  <div style="text-align: right;">"Hg</div>	<b>Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition</b> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clear  2. <input type="checkbox"/> Scattered _____ Feet AGL  3. <input type="checkbox"/> Broken _____ Feet AGL </div> <div> 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Overcast _____ Feet AGL  5. <input type="checkbox"/> Partial Obscuration  6. <input type="checkbox"/> Obscured </div> </div>			
<b>Wind Information</b> 1. Direction <u>EASTERLY</u> 2. Velocity <u>12</u> Kts 3. Gusts <u>18</u> Kts		<b>Restriction To Visibility</b>  <u>NONE</u>	<b>Type Precipitation</b>  <u>NONE</u>	<b>Intensity Of Precipitation</b> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Light                      3. <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate                  4. Specify _____	
<b>Turbulence (Multiple Entry)</b> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> None      2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Light      3. <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate      4. <input type="checkbox"/> Severe      5. <input type="checkbox"/> Extreme      6. <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Air      7. <input type="checkbox"/> In Clouds					
<b>Damage To Aircraft And Other Property</b>					
<b>Degree Of Aircraft Damage</b> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> None      2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor      3. <input type="checkbox"/> Substantial      4. <input type="checkbox"/> Destroyed				<b>Fire</b> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes                      3. <input type="checkbox"/> In-Flight 2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No                      4. <input type="checkbox"/> On Ground	
<b>Description Of Damage To Aircraft And Other Property</b> <u>T/R Drive shaft in 3 pieces, some structural damage on inside of tail boom + transition area. (Aircraft not yet recovered).</u>					
<b>Mechanical Malfunction Failure</b>					
1. <input type="checkbox"/> No 2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes		List The Name Of The Part, Manufacturer, Part No., Serial No. And Describe The Failure  <u>T/R Drive shaft failed at a lower</u> <u>PN 369A 5518-601</u> <u>SN 6084-P034</u>		<b>Total Time</b> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div> On Part  <u>55</u> Hours </div> <div> At Overhaul  <u>0</u> Hours </div> </div>	
<b>Collision Accident</b> If Collision Accident Occurred, Complete The Information For Other Aircraft					
<b>Registration Mark</b>	<b>Aircraft Manufacturer</b>	<b>Aircraft Type/Model</b>	<b>Degree Of Aircraft Damage</b> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Destroyed                      3. <input type="checkbox"/> Minor 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Substantial                  4. <input type="checkbox"/> None		
<b>Registered Aircraft Owner</b>		<b>Address</b>			
<b>Pilot Name</b>		<b>Address</b>		<b>Pilot Certificate No.</b>	
<b>Evacuation Of Aircraft</b>					
<b>Assistance Received</b> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Outside Person (s)  2. <input type="checkbox"/> Auxiliary Lighting </div> <div> 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Slide  4. <input type="checkbox"/> Rope </div> <div> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Ladder  6. <input type="checkbox"/> Specify _____ </div> </div>					
<b>Method Of Exit (State Approximate Number Of Persons Using Each Of The Following)</b> 1. Main Door <u>✓</u> 2. Auxiliary Door _____      3. Emergency Exit _____					
<b>Recommendation (How Could This Accident Have Been Prevented)</b>					
Operator/Owner Safety Recommendation (Optional Entry)					

**Additional Flight Crew Members**

For Each Additional Flight Crew Member, Exclusive Of Cabin Attendants Complete The Following Information

Name	FAA Certificate No.	Address	Title
<b>Certificate(s)</b> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Student                      3. <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial                      5. <input type="checkbox"/> Flight Instructor                      7. <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Private                      4. <input type="checkbox"/> Airline Transport                      6. <input type="checkbox"/> Flight Engineer                      8. Specify _____			
Ratings/Endorsements		Total Flight Time	Flight Time This Accident
Name	FAA Certificate No.	Address	Title
<b>Certificate(s)</b> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Student                      3. <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial                      5. <input type="checkbox"/> Flight Instructor                      7. <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Private                      4. <input type="checkbox"/> Airline Transport                      6. <input type="checkbox"/> Flight Engineer                      8. Specify _____			
Ratings/Endorsements		Total Flight Time	Flight Time This Accident
Name	FAA Certificate No.	Address	Title
<b>Certificate(s)</b> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Student                      3. <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial                      5. <input type="checkbox"/> Flight Instructor                      7. <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Private                      4. <input type="checkbox"/> Airline Transport                      6. <input type="checkbox"/> Flight Engineer                      8. Specify _____			
Ratings/Endorsements		Total Flight Time	Flight Time This Accident

**Narrative History Of Flight**

Describe What Occurred In Chronological Order, The Circumstances Leading To The Accident And The Nature Of The Accident. Describe The Terrain And Include A Sketch Of Wreckage Distribution If Pertinent. Attach Extra Sheets If Needed. State Point Of Departure, Time Of Departure, Intended Destination And Services Obtained.

SEE ATTACHED NARRATIVE + MAP

I Hereby Certify That The Above Information Is Complete And Accurate To The Best Of My Knowledge

Date Of This Report

2-17-05

Signature Of Pilot/Operator

*[Signature]*

Signature Of Person Filing Report Other Than Pilot/Operator

1. Signature

2. Type Or Print Name

3. Title

For NTSB Use Only

NTSB Accident No.

DEN 05 LA 056

Reviewed By NTSB Office Located At

DENVER, COLORADO

Name Of Investigator

ARNOLD W. SCOTT

Date Report Received

MAR 07 2005

NTSB - DEN

## Narrative

On 02/03/2005 at 07:30 I was chartered to fly Park City Helicopter's MD 369HS Tail No N9118F from a parking lot at the west end of Provo Canyon to several LZs nearby. My passengers were two UDOT personnel in charge of avalanche control within the canyon. We loaded several explosives, two sets of skis, a light antenna pole about 3/4" by 3' and two passengers on the aircraft. Our first mission was to dispense the pentolyte charges for avalanche control. This mission went without incident.

The next mission was to land at the summit (approximately 11,400') and to try to drop off the two people and the antenna pole. The summit was too narrow for me to safely land there, so I chose an LZ approximately 1,300' lower than we had used previously in the summer. The size of the LZ is larger than a football field.

I over flew the area doing a reconnaissance and determined that the wind was coming down canyon from the east. I circled as I descended and set up a final approach from the southwest and continued on short final to turn toward the east. There were absolutely no obstacles in my path on either approach or final. The LZ was covered in snow but had a very thin crust on it so loose snow was not an issue. As I was applying power just before touching down, I felt an unusual vibration in both the pedals and the airframe. At this point we were about 4' off the ground. My initial reaction was to pick the helicopter back up to a high hover (approximately 8' - 10').

I repositioned the helicopter about 20' away from the first intended landing area. While I was doing this, the vibrations and noise got worse. I was about to land the helicopter when I heard a kind of clanking sound and the aircraft began to spin to the right. I immediately realized I had no tail rotor authority. I rolled the throttle to flight idle and descended straight down into the snow in an auto rotation. As you can imagine all this happened within about 2-3 seconds. We rotated about 200 degrees.

The snow was so deep, that the aircraft settled into it about 1', slightly tail low. All three of us were on intercom, and I verified that none of us were hurt. Since we were upright and very stable I left the aircraft in flight idle for 2 min before doing a shut down. During this period I did hear more clanking in the tailboom area. I then shut down the engine, waited for the rotors to come to a stop. We exited the aircraft, and I immediately notified the Director of Operations.

My two passengers got out and went on with their mission while I arranged alternate transportation.

During my post incident inspection, I noticed on the right side of the helicopter, a small triangular tear in the skin. It was in line with the drive shaft and immediately above the end of the exhaust pipe. There appeared to be no other structural damage. The tailrotor could be spun freely. There was no damage to the blades or any other part of the tail rotor assembly. There was no indication of damage to the gearbox or to its attachment points. Both the upper and lower vertical fins showed no damage. The imprint of the fuselage in the snow indicated that the aircraft descended perfectly vertical, with no drift.

With help from Matt Higginbotham, the rescue pilot, we dug beneath the forward part of the skids with snow shovels, to make the helicopter perfectly level for extraction. At this time we took the pictures that are attached.



Claus Hauer

