



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	SOUTH BEND, Indiana	<b>Accident Number:</b>	CHI87LA098
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	March 17, 1987, 14:15 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N9522F
<b>Aircraft:</b>	HUGHES 269B	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	3 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

ACCORDING TO THE PLT, AFTER DEPARTURE FROM AURORA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT, HE LANDED AT AN AIRFIELD WEST OF ELGIN, ILLINOIS AND PICKED UP THE TWO PASSENGERS. THE PLT STATED THAT HE THEN DEPARTED FOR ELKHART, INDIANA. ACCORDING TO AN INDIANA STATE POLICE AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT REPORT, WHILE EN ROUTE TO ELKHART, THE PLT OBSERVED AN ILLUMINATED LOW FUEL LIGHT AND DECIDED TO MAKE A PRECAUTIONARY LANDING IN AN OPEN FIELD, ABOUT THREE MILES SOUTHWEST OF MICHIANA REGIONAL AIRPORT, SOUTH BEND, INDIANA. THE REPORT FURTHER STATES THAT THE GAS TANK OF THE ACFT WAS FOUND EMPTY. ACCORDING TO THE PLT, 'SUBSTANTIAL ACFT DAMAGE OCCURRED DURING FLARE AND SUBSEQUENT HARD LANDING.'

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

### Findings

Occurrence #1: HARD LANDING  
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

#### Findings

1. (F) FLUID,FUEL - LOW LEVEL

2. (C) FUEL CONSUMPTION CALCULATIONS - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. TERRAIN CONDITION - OPEN FIELD
4. PRECAUTIONARY LANDING - PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (C) PROPER DESCENT RATE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. (C) ROTOR RPM - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
7. (C) REMEDIAL ACTION - DELAYED - PILOT IN COMMAND

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	21, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Unknown
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Helicopter	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 3 Valid Medical-w/ waivers/lim	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	July 15, 1986
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	UNK	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	127 hours (Total, all aircraft), 34 hours (Total, this make and model), 64 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 26 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	HUGHES	<b>Registration:</b>	N9522F
<b>Model/Series:</b>	269B 269B	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Helicopter
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	58-0364
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Skid	<b>Seats:</b>	3
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	March 10, 1987 Unknown	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1670 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	3 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	7000 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	HIO-360-AIA
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	SPORTFLIGHT HELICOPTER INC.	<b>Rated Power:</b>	180 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	SPORTFLIGHT HELICOPTER, INC.	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None
<b>Operator Does Business As:</b>		<b>Operator Designator Code:</b>	

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	SBN ,790 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	3 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	13:52 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	90°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	25000 ft AGL	<b>Visibility</b>	10 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	17 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	90°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	8°C / -9°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	AURORA , IL (ARR)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	ELKHART , IN (EKM)	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	11:15 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Grass/turf
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Used:</b>	0	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>		<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Precautionary landing

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	2 None	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	3 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	41.71923,-86.329429(est)

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Carmien, Amy

**Additional Participating Persons:**

**Original Publish Date:** March 30, 1988

**Last Revision Date:**

**Investigation Class:** [Class](#)

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=13746>

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