



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

|                                |   |                         |             |
|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Location:</b>               | MINOT, North Dakota                     | <b>Accident Number:</b> | DEN85LTG06  |
| <b>Date &amp; Time:</b>        | July 30, 1985, 13:15 Local              | <b>Registration:</b>    | N1041B      |
| <b>Aircraft:</b>               | BELL 47G-4A                             | <b>Aircraft Damage:</b> | Substantial |
| <b>Defining Event:</b>         |   | <b>Injuries:</b>        | 2 None      |
| <b>Flight Conducted Under:</b> | Part 91: General aviation - Positioning |                         |             |

## Analysis

THE PLT WAS ENGAGED BY A DEPUTY SHERIFF TO FLY THE HELICOPTER ABOUT 2-1/2 MI TO THE MINOT INTL ARPT FOR IMPOUNDMENT. DURING TAKEOFF, IT BEGAN CLIMBING, THEN THE PLT LOST CONTROL & THE HELICOPTER ENTERED A DESCENT & CRASHED. INITIAL IMPACT OCCURRED ABOUT 35 FT FROM THE DEPARTURE POINT. DURING IMPACT, THE TAIL BOOM SEPARATED, THE MAIN ROTOR BLADES WERE DAMAGED, THE SKIDS WERE BENT & THE FRONT OF THE GLASS CANOPY WAS BROKEN. THE PLT INDICATED THAT HE HAD 1100 HRS TOTAL TIME IN THIS MAKE & MODEL OF HELICOPTER, BUT HAD NOT FLOWN IN THE LAST 90 DAYS. HE HAD A RECENT MEDICAL EXAM, BUT THE MEDICAL EXAMINER DID NOT ISSUE A CERTIFICATE. DURING AN EXAM OF THE HELICOPTER & A SUBSEQUENT ENG RUN, NO MALFUNCTION OR FAILURE WAS FOUND THAT WOULD HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE ACCIDENT.

## Probable Cause and Findings

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

### Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT  
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. (C) AIRCRAFT HANDLING - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
  2. QUALIFICATION - PILOT IN COMMAND
  3. (F) LACK OF RECENT EXPERIENCE - PILOT IN COMMAND
  4. DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED
- 

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

|                                  |   |  |          |
|----------------------------------|---|--|----------|
| <b>Certificate:</b>              | Commercial                              | <b>Age:</b>                              | 51, Male |
| <b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>       | Single-engine land                      | <b>Seat Occupied:</b>                    | Left     |
| <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>    | None None                               | <b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>            |          |
| <b>Occupational Pilot:</b>       | Yes                                     | <b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b> |          |
| <b>Flight Time:</b>              | 1100 hours (Total, this make and model) |  |          |

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

|                                      |                        |                                       |                 |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Aircraft Make:</b>                | BELL                   | <b>Registration:</b>                  | N1041B          |
| <b>Model/Series:</b>                 | 47G-4A 47G-4A          | <b>Aircraft Category:</b>             | Helicopter      |
| <b>Year of Manufacture:</b>          |                        | <b>Amateur Built:</b>                 |                 |
| <b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>    | Normal                 | <b>Serial Number:</b>                 | 7653            |
| <b>Landing Gear Type:</b>            | Skid                   | <b>Seats:</b>                         | 3               |
| <b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b> | August 20, 1983 Annual | <b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>       | 2950 lbs        |
| <b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>   | 1525 Hrs               | <b>Engines:</b>                       | 1 Reciprocating |
| <b>Airframe Total Time:</b>          |                        | <b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>           | LYCOMING        |
| <b>ELT:</b>                          | Not installed          | <b>Engine Model/Series:</b>           | VO-540-B1B3     |
| <b>Registered Owner:</b>             | HAUGEN CONTRUCTION     | <b>Rated Power:</b>                   | 280 Horsepower  |
| <b>Operator:</b>                     |                        | <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> |                                  | <b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>         |              |
| <b>Observation Time:</b>                |                                  | <b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>        |              |
| <b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>          | Clear                            | <b>Visibility</b>                           | 15 miles     |
| <b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>                  | None                             | <b>Visibility (RVR):</b>                    |              |
| <b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>                | /                                | <b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>     | /            |
| <b>Wind Direction:</b>                  | 0°                               | <b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b> | /            |
| <b>Altimeter Setting:</b>               |                                  | <b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>               | 24°C / -18°C |
| <b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>   | No Obscuration; No Precipitation |   |              |
| <b>Departure Point:</b>                 |                                  | <b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>           | None         |
| <b>Destination:</b>                     | (MOT)                            | <b>Type of Clearance:</b>                   | None         |
| <b>Departure Time:</b>                  | 13:15 Local                      | <b>Type of Airspace:</b>                    | Class D      |

## Airport Information

|                             |   |                                  |      |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|------|
| <b>Airport:</b>             |   | <b>Runway Surface Type:</b>      |      |
| <b>Airport Elevation:</b>   |   | <b>Runway Surface Condition:</b> |      |
| <b>Runway Used:</b>         | 0 | <b>IFR Approach:</b>             | None |
| <b>Runway Length/Width:</b> |   | <b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>     | None |

## Wreckage and Impact Information

|                            |        |                             |                            |
|----------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Crew Injuries:</b>      | 1 None | <b>Aircraft Damage:</b>     | Substantial                |
| <b>Passenger Injuries:</b> | 1 None | <b>Aircraft Fire:</b>       | None                       |
| <b>Ground Injuries:</b>    | N/A    | <b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>  | None                       |
| <b>Total Injuries:</b>     | 2 None | <b>Latitude, Longitude:</b> | 48.230834,-101.290733(est) |

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Clark, Fred

**Additional Participating Persons:** OTTO D GOERGEN; FARGO , ND  
JOHN L WHITE; FARGO , ND  
JAMES MENDENHALL; DENVER , CO

**Original Publish Date:**

**Last Revision Date:**

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

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=16782>

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