



Aviation Investigation Preliminary Report

Location:	Maybee, MI	Accident Number:	CEN24LA249
Date & Time:	July 4, 2024, 10:43 Local	Registration:	N426DM
Aircraft:	Rotorway 162 F	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

On July 4, 2024, about 1043 eastern daylight time, a Rotorway 162 F helicopter, N426DM, sustained substantial damage when it was involved in an accident near Maybee, Michigan. The pilot and passenger were not injured. The helicopter was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 personal flight.

The pilot reported that he conducted a preflight on the helicopter and taxied for takeoff. No problems were noted on the preflight. The pilot brought the helicopter into a hover for takeoff and all systems checked normal, and the pilot took off and climbed to about 1,800 ft and flew locally for about 1 hour with no problems. Nearing the end of the flight, the pilot noticed that the engine and rotor rpms started to drop. After he adjusted the collective and throttle, the rotor RPMs surged, and engine RPMs fluctuated.

The pilot decided to execute an autorotation to a grass covered field. As the helicopter descended toward the field, the pilot adjusted the cyclic and collective to keep the airspeed at 70 knots, and rotor RPM about 100%. As the helicopter approached the field, the pilot started to flare helicopter to arrest the forward momentum. The helicopter contacted the ground, and the skids dug into soft soil. After the tailboom contacted the ground, the helicopter nosed forward, spun about 120 degrees, and came to rest upright, which resulted in substantial damage to the main rotor blades, fuselage, and the tailboom. The pilot and the passenger exited the helicopter uninjured.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Rotorway	Registration:	N426DM
Model/Series:	162 F	Aircraft Category:	Helicopter
Amateur Built:	Yes		
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Designator Code:			

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	VMC	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KTTF,612 ft msl	Observation Time:	10:35 Local
Distance from Accident Site:	5 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	27°C /14°C
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility:	10 miles
Altimeter Setting:	29.95 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	NONE
Departure Point:	Belleville, MI (YIP)	Destination:	Belleville, MI (YIP)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:		Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	42.0039,-83.5155 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Lemishko, Alexander
Additional Participating Persons:	Zachary Ortiz; FAA FSDO; East Michigan, MI
Investigation Class:	Class 3
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.