



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	DELANO, California	<b>Accident Number:</b>	LAX87DVA04
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	March 8, 1987, 12:11 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N99232
<b>Aircraft:</b>	HILLER OH-23G	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 137: Agricultural		

## Analysis

DURING AN AERIAL APPLICATION FLIGHT, THE PILOT RETURNED TO THE LOADING TRUCK FOR APPROXIMATELY 5 ADDITIONAL GALLONS OF CHEMICAL TO FINISH THE APPLICATION. THE LOADER; HOWEVER, LOADED 70 GALLONS AND WHEN THE PILOT TOOK OFF THE ROTOR RPM BEGAN TO BLEED OFF. THE PILOT ATTEMPTED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO RELAND ON THE TRUCK BY BACKING THE HELICOPTER. HE OVERSHOT THE LANDING AREA AND COLLIDED WITH NEARBY TREES. INVESTIGATION REVEALED NO MECHANICAL FAILURES OR MALFUNCTIONS.

## 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. (F) AIRCRAFT SERVICE - IMPROPER
2. (C) ROTOR RPM - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) INATTENTIVE - PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

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Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Findings

4. (F) PROPER TOUCHDOWN POINT - NOT OBTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (C) EMERGENCY PROCEDURE - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. (F) OBJECT - TREE(S)

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	33, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Glider; 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 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	October 1, 1986
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	Yes	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	4700 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1600 hours (Total, this make and model)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	HILLER	<b>Registration:</b>	N99232
<b>Model/Series:</b>	OH-23G OH-23G	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Helicopter
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Restricted (Special)	<b>Serial Number:</b>	1616
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Skid	<b>Seats:</b>	3
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	2750 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<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-C1A
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	SAN JOAQUIN HELICOPTERS	<b>Rated Power:</b>	305 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>		<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	
<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>	20 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	5 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	300°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>		<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	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>		<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	12:10 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	0 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	
<b>Runway Used:</b>	0	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	0 ft / 0 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Forced landing

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	35.780086,-119.230468(est)

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Wilkins, J.

**Additional Participating Persons:**

**Original Publish Date:** April 24, 1989

**Last Revision Date:**

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

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=25324>

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