



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	SAFE HARBOR, Pennsylvania	<b>Accident Number:</b>	NYC86LA099
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	April 5, 1986, 03:45 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N221SC
<b>Aircraft:</b>	SIKORSKY S-76	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	3 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation		

## Analysis

THE HELICOPTER WAS MANEUVERING AT LOW ALTITUDE, LOW AIRSPEED, WHILE ON A SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSION AT NIGHT, LOOKING FOR A CAPSIZED BOAT, WHEN IT IMPACTED THE WATER.

## Probable Cause and Findings

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

### Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

#### Findings

1. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - WATER, GLASSY
2. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
3. (C) BECAME LOST/DISORIENTED - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (F) VISUAL LOOKOUT - NOT MAINTAINED - COPILOT/SECOND PILOT
5. (C) DESCENT - CONTINUED - PILOT IN COMMAND

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Airline transport	<b>Age:</b>	44, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Right
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Helicopter	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane; Helicopter	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	Yes
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 1 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	March 24, 1986
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	Yes	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	9880 hours (Total, all aircraft), 325 hours (Total, this make and model), 9533 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 155 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	SIKORSKY	<b>Registration:</b>	N221SC
<b>Model/Series:</b>	S-76 S-76	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Helicopter
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	760177
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Retractable - Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	14
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	February 27, 1986 Continuous airworthiness	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	10000 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	2 Turbo shaft
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	1248 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	ALLISON
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	250-C30S
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	INTL. SIGNAL & CONTROL GROUP	<b>Rated Power:</b>	650 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	INTERNATIONAL SINGAL CORP.	<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>	Night/dark
<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>	10 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>	13°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	LANCASTER , PA (LNS)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>		<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	03:30 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Water
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Water-glassy
<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>	2 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>	3 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	39.759437,-76.180267(est)

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Danhauer, Clifford

**Additional Participating Persons:**

**Original Publish Date:** April 25, 1988

**Last Revision Date:**

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

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=30317>

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