



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	PLAINSBORO, New Jersey	<b>Accident Number:</b>	NYC85LA081
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	June 15, 1985, 14:30 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N49882
<b>Aircraft:</b>	BELL 47G-3	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 137: Agricultural		

## Analysis

THE HELICOPTER CRASHED SHORTLY AFTER TAKEOFF WITH 55 GALLONS OF FERTILIZER ON BOARD. THE PLT STATED THAT EACH TIME HE MADE A SWATH RUN OVER THE FIELD THE BLADES OF THE HELICOPTER WERE PICKING UP SOME OF THE LIQUID FERTILIZER. ON TAKEOFF HELICOPTER FELT HEAVY, ACCORDING TO THE PLT. UNABLE TO GET THE RPM BACK AND TOO LATE TO ACTIVATE THE EMERGENCY DUMP, THE HELICOPTER COLLIDED WITH THE GROUND IN THE POTATO FIELD.

## Probable Cause and Findings

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

### Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - NONMECHANICAL  
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF

#### Findings

1. (C) ADEQUATE ROTOR RPM - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND  
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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Findings

2. LOAD JETTISON - NOT POSSIBLE - PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

3. (C) DIRECTIONAL CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial; Flight instructor	<b>Age:</b>	53, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Unknown
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Helicopter	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>		<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>		<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	April 29, 1985
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	UNK	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	15420 hours (Total, all aircraft), 3362 hours (Total, this make and model), 15357 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 110 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	BELL	<b>Registration:</b>	N49882
<b>Model/Series:</b>	47G-3 47G-3	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Helicopter
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Restricted (Special)	<b>Serial Number:</b>	2612
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Skid	<b>Seats:</b>	3
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	May 14, 1985 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	2600 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	53 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	5185 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>		<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	VO-435-A1F
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	CORDOBA HELICOPTERS	<b>Rated Power:</b>	280 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>	Unknown	<b>Visibility</b>	
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Unknown	<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>	-18°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	PLAINSBORO , NJ	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>		<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	00:00 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## 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>	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>	

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Taylor, Vernon

**Additional Participating Persons:**

**Original Publish Date:**

**Last Revision Date:**

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

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=35842>

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