



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

|                                |                                    |                         |             |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Location:</b>               | WENATCHEE, Washington              | <b>Accident Number:</b> | SEA92LA112  |
| <b>Date &amp; Time:</b>        | May 30, 1992, 07:00 Local          | <b>Registration:</b>    | N86239      |
| <b>Aircraft:</b>               | ENSTROM                      280FX | <b>Aircraft Damage:</b> | Substantial |
| <b>Defining Event:</b>         |                                    | <b>Injuries:</b>        | 1 None      |
| <b>Flight Conducted Under:</b> | Part 137: Agricultural             |                         |             |

## Analysis

DURING FINAL APPROACH TO LAND, THE HELICOPTER'S RIGHT SPRAY BOOM STRUCK A METAL FENCE POST RESULTING IN A LOSS OF CONTROL. THE HELICOPTER SUBSEQUENTLY COLLIDED WITH TERRAIN AFTER THE MAIN ROTOR BLADES IMPACTED NEARBY POWER LINES. THE PILOT REPORTED THAT HE DID NOT SEE THE FENCE POST AND THAT THE HELICOPTER'S WINDSCREEN WAS OBSCURED WITH CHEMICAL SPRAY.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT IN COMMAND'S INADEQUATE VISUAL LOOKOUT. FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE ACCIDENT WERE: OBJECT (FENCE POST) AND WINDSHIELD DIRTY (FOGGY)

## Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT  
Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - FINAL APPROACH

### Findings

1. (F) WINDOW, FLIGHT COMPARTMENT WINDOW/WINDSHIELD - DIRTY(FOGGY)
2. (F) OBJECT - FENCE POST
3. (C) VISUAL LOOKOUT - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND

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

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

|                                  |  |  |              |
|----------------------------------|--|--|--------------|
| <b>Certificate:</b>              | Commercial; Flight instructor  | <b>Age:</b>                              | 34, 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>     | Airplane   | <b>Second Pilot Present:</b>             | No           |
| <b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>     | Airplane single-engine; Instrument airplane  | <b>Toxicology Performed:</b>             | No           |
| <b>Medical Certification:</b>    | Class 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.   | <b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>            | June 5, 1991 |
| <b>Occupational Pilot:</b>       | Yes  | <b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b> |              |
| <b>Flight Time:</b>              | 7262 hours (Total, all aircraft), 80 hours (Total, this make and model), 80 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 40 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft) |  |              |

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

|                                      |                              |                                       |                 |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Aircraft Make:</b>                | ENSTROM                      | <b>Registration:</b>                  | N86239          |
| <b>Model/Series:</b>                 | 280FX 280FX                  | <b>Aircraft Category:</b>             | Helicopter      |
| <b>Year of Manufacture:</b>          |                              | <b>Amateur Built:</b>                 |                 |
| <b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>    | Normal; Restricted (Special) | <b>Serial Number:</b>                 | 2008            |
| <b>Landing Gear Type:</b>            | Skid                         | <b>Seats:</b>                         | 3               |
| <b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b> | February 14, 1992 100 hour   | <b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>       | 2600 lbs        |
| <b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>   | 80 Hrs                       | <b>Engines:</b>                       | 1 Reciprocating |
| <b>Airframe Total Time:</b>          | 925 Hrs                      | <b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>           | LYCOMING        |
| <b>ELT:</b>                          | Not installed                | <b>Engine Model/Series:</b>           | H10-360-F1AD    |
| <b>Registered Owner:</b>             | FALCON WEST HELICOPTERS      | <b>Rated Power:</b>                   | 225 Horsepower  |
| <b>Operator:</b>                     | PFISTERS FARM AVIATION INC.  | <b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b> |                 |
| <b>Operator Does Business As:</b>    |                              | <b>Operator Designator Code:</b>      | WYKG            |

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

|   |                                  |   |                  |
|---|----------------------------------|---|------------------|
| <b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>     | Visual (VMC)                     | <b>Condition of Light:</b>                  | Day              |
| <b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b> | EAT ,1245 ft msl                 | <b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>         | 2 Nautical Miles |
| <b>Observation Time:</b>                | 06:46 Local                      | <b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>        | 270°             |
| <b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>          | Thin Overcast / 20000 ft AGL     | <b>Visibility</b>                           | 30 miles         |
| <b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>                  | None                             | <b>Visibility (RVR):</b>                    |                  |
| <b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>                | 6 knots /                        | <b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>     | /                |
| <b>Wind Direction:</b>                  | 280°                             | <b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b> | /                |
| <b>Altimeter Setting:</b>               | 30 inches Hg                     | <b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>               | 13°C / 6°C       |
| <b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>   | No Obscuration; No Precipitation |   |                  |
| <b>Departure Point:</b>                 | MALAGA , WA                      | <b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>           | None             |
| <b>Destination:</b>                     |                                  | <b>Type of Clearance:</b>                   | None             |
| <b>Departure Time:</b>                  | 06:45 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>     | Valley/terrain following |

## 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> | 47.490501,-120.18991(est) |

## Administrative Information

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>     | Mccreary, Steven  |
| <b>Additional Participating Persons:</b> | R. HAMM; RENTON , WA  |
| <b>Original Publish Date:</b>            | August 31, 1993   |
| <b>Last Revision Date:</b>               |   |
| <b>Investigation Class:</b>              | <a href="#">Class</a>   |
| <b>Note:</b>                             |   |
| <b>Investigation Docket:</b>             | <a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=41686">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=41686</a> |

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