



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	METTER, Georgia	<b>Accident Number:</b>	MIA00LA145
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	May 6, 2000, 13:13 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N80584
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Hiller UH-12C	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Minor
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

The pilot stated that he was flying his helicopter and he struck a power line. He said that the wire strike destroyed the glass bubble and he thought that was the only damage, so he tried to return to the airport. As he approached the airport for landing, the pilot said he was unable to control the engine rpm, which had stuck on a high setting, and he could not perform a normal autorotation. He landed the helicopter with high vertical and forward speeds, and the helicopter received substantial damage.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the pilot's failure to maintain an adequate lookout resulting in a collision with a transmission wire that resulted in a forced landing and substantial damage to the helicopter.

### Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT  
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

- Findings
1. (C) VISUAL LOOKOUT - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
  2. OBJECT - WIRE, TRANSMISSION
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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

## Factual Information

On May 6, 2000, about 1313 eastern daylight time, a Hiller UH-12C helicopter, N80584, registered to Ulfco Oil Inc., operated as a Title 14 CFR Part 91 personal flight, crashed while maneuvering near Metter, Georgia. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and no flight plan was filed. The helicopter incurred substantial damage, and the commercial-rated pilot sustained minor injuries. The flight originated from Metter, the same day, about 1250.

The pilot stated that he was flying his helicopter near the Metter Airport, when he struck a power line. He stated that the wire strike destroyed the glass bubble and he thought that was the only damage, so he tried to return to the airport. As he approached the airport for landing, he was unable to control the engine rpm, which had stuck on a high setting, so he could not perform a normal autorotation. He landed the helicopter with high vertical and forward speeds, and the helicopter bounced, rolled over on the right side, and incurred substantial damage.

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	76, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Center
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Helicopter	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane; Helicopter	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 1 Valid Medical-w/ waivers/lim	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	December 2, 1999
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	27782 hours (Total, all aircraft), 44 hours (Total, this make and model), 17 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Hiller	<b>Registration:</b>	N80584
<b>Model/Series:</b>	UH-12C UH-12C	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Helicopter
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	868-2263
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Skid	<b>Seats:</b>	3
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	May 17, 1999 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	2500 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	44 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	1055 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Franklin
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	UH-12C
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	ULFCO OIL INC	<b>Rated Power:</b>	210 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>		<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>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	VDI ,275 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	19 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	13:30 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	50°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Scattered / 5500 ft AGL	<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>	30 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	28°C / 14°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	(MHP)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>		<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	12:50 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class E

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	METTER MUNICIPAL AIRPORT MHP	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	197 ft msl	<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;Straight-in

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Minor	<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 Minor	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	32.389713,-82.06002(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Lovell, John
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	GEORGE C JONES; ATLANTA , GA
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	December 4, 2000
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class</a>
<b>Note:</b>	The NTSB traveled to the scene of this accident.
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=49142">https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=49142</a>

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