



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Swanee, Georgia	Accident Number:	MIA02LA040
Date & Time:	November 16, 2001, 16:00 Local	Registration:	N6101U
Aircraft:	Eurocopter AS-350-BA	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	5 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Executive/Corporate		

Analysis

The pilot stated that he was hovering the helicopter in front of a house, and the main rotor blades struck a driveway light post, removing the top ornament from the post. According to the pilot, he landed the helicopter immediately and secured it, but the blades had incurred damage as a result of them having struck the post. The pilot stated that prior to the accident, there were no failures or malfunctions to any of the helicopter's systems.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's improper visual lookout while hovering the helicopter, which resulted in the helicopter's main rotor blades colliding with a light post.

Findings

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

Findings

1. OBJECT - POLE
2. (C) VISUAL LOOKOUT - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

On November 16, 2001, about 1600 eastern standard time, a Eurocopter AS-350-BA, N6101U, registered to, and operated by Williams Air Services Inc., as a Title 14 CFR Part 91 corporate flight, incurred damage to the main rotor blades in Swanee, Georgia. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and no flight plan was filed. The airline transport-rated pilot and four passengers were not injured, and the aircraft incurred substantial damage.

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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline transport	Age:	45, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane; Helicopter	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	October 15, 2001
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	January 11, 2001
Flight Time:	3823 hours (Total, all aircraft), 557 hours (Total, this make and model), 3536 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 0 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Eurocopter	Registration:	N6101U
Model/Series:	AS-350-BA	Aircraft Category:	Helicopter
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Utility	Serial Number:	2308
Landing Gear Type:	Skid	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	September 30, 2000 Continuous airworthiness	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	4630 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	4.3 Hrs	Engines:	Turbo shaft
Airframe Total Time:	629.6 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Turbomeca
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	Arriel 1-B
Registered Owner:	Williams Air Services Inc.,	Rated Power:	641 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	MCN	Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:	15:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	8 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	10°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.02 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	26°C / 9°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Swanee, GA	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	Unknown
Departure Time:	16:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Unknown

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	4 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	5 None	Latitude, Longitude:	34.049549,-84.069908(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Lovell, John
Additional Participating Persons:	Robert Vine; FAA FSDO; Atlanta, GA
Original Publish Date:	February 20, 2002
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=53876

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