





Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location: Porter, Texas Accident Number: DFW06CA156

Date & Time: June 8, 2006, 10:00 Local Registration: N17VH

Aircraft: Campbell W/Smiley J Execytive 162F Aircraft Damage: Substantial

Defining Event: 1 Minor

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General aviation - Personal

Analysis

The 38-hour student helicopter pilot stated he intended to practice hovering maneuvers over a grass apron adjacent to a taxiway at the airport. The pilot reported that while in the process of changing directions, while hovering at a skid height of 18 inches off the ground, the left landing gear skid came in contact with the ground and he was unable to stop or correct the rollover. The main rotor blades of the experimental single-engine helicopter were destroyed when the helicopter came to rest on its right side. The pilot, who held a private certificate in airplanes single-engine land, reported he had accumulated a total of 1,986 hours. In a narrative statement submitted by the pilot he added that "the accident was due solely to pilot error and did not involve any other aircraft, person, vehicles, or property."

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's loss of control after encountering dynamic rollover while hovering.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT

Phase of Operation: HOVER

Occurrence #2: ROLL OVER

Phase of Operation: HOVER

- Findings
 1. (C) DYNAMIC ROLLOVER ENCOUNTERED PILOT IN COMMAND
 2. TERRAIN CONDITION GRASS

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Factual Information

The 38-hour helicopter student pilot stated he intended to practice hovering maneuvers over a grass apron adjacent to a taxiway at the airport. The pilot reported that while in the process of changing directions, while hovering at a skid height of 18 inches off the ground, the left landing gear skid came in contact with the ground and he was unable to stop or correct the rollover. The main rotor blades of the experimental single-engine helicopter were destroyed when the helicopter came to rest on its right side. The pilot, who held a private certificate in airplanes single-engine land, reported he had accumulated a total of 1,986 hours. In a narrative statement submitted by the pilot he added that "the accident was due solely to pilot error and did not involve any other aircraft, person, vehicles, or property."

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private; Student	Age:	67,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3	Last FAA Medical Exam:	September 1, 2004
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	September 1, 2004
Flight Time:	1986 hours (Total, all aircraft), 29 hours (Total, this make and model), 1908 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 7 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

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Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Campbell W/Smiley J	Registration:	N17VH
Execytive 162F	Aircraft Category:	Helicopter
	Amateur Built:	Yes
Experimental (Special)	Serial Number:	6684
Skid	Seats:	2
November 1, 2005 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1500 lbs
28.3 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
285 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Rotorway
Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	RI 162F
Clint Akexander	Rated Power:	150 Horsepower
Clint Alexander	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
	Experimental (Special) Skid November 1, 2005 Annual 28.3 Hrs 285 Hrs at time of accident Installed, not activated Clint Akexander	Execytive 162F Aircraft Category: Amateur Built: Experimental (Special) Serial Number: Skid Seats: November 1, 2005 Annual Certified Max Gross Wt.: 28.3 Hrs Engines: 285 Hrs at time of accident Installed, not activated Clint Akexander Clint Alexander Operating Certificate(s)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	IAH	Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:	09:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 4000 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	220°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.02 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	29°C / 21°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipit	ation	
Departure Point:	Porter, TX (9X1)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Porter, TX (9X1)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	

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Airport Information

Airport:	Williams Airport 9X1	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:		IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	30.153333,-95.321945

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Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Yeager, Leah
Additional Participating Persons:	Tom Muckhaughen; Houston FSDO
Original Publish Date:	October 3, 2006
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	<u>Class</u>
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=63865

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant events in other modes of transportation—railroad, transit, highway, marine, pipeline, and commercial space. We determine the probable causes of the accidents and events we investigate, and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future occurrences. In addition, we conduct transportation safety research studies and offer information and other assistance to family members and survivors for each accident or event we investigate. We also serve as the appellate authority for enforcement actions involving aviation and mariner certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and US Coast Guard, and we adjudicate appeals of civil penalty actions taken by the FAA.

The NTSB does not assign fault or blame for an accident or incident; rather, as specified by NTSB regulation, "accident/incident investigations are fact-finding proceedings with no formal issues and no adverse parties ... and are not conducted for the purpose of determining the rights or liabilities of any person" (Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 831.4). Assignment of fault or legal liability is not relevant to the NTSB's statutory mission to improve transportation safety by investigating accidents and incidents and issuing safety recommendations. In addition, statutory language prohibits the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report (Title 49 United States Code section 1154(b)). A factual report that may be admissible under 49 United States Code section 1154(b) is available here.

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