



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	Linden, New Jersey	<b>Accident Number:</b>	MIA08CA072
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	March 4, 2008, 10:30 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N152TA
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Eurocopter France AS350B1	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Loss of control in flight	<b>Injuries:</b>	2 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Flight test		

## Analysis

The pilot stated that he was taking off from a dolly for a track and balance maintenance flight. He said that while hover taxiing the right door blew open. Shortly thereafter, he noticed that his clipboard was about to fall out of the helicopter. He quickly tried to transfer his left hand to the cyclic so that he could use his right hand to stop the clipboard from falling. He said that he put in too much aft cyclic and the tail guard struck the ground. Examination by a FAA inspector revealed that the tail boom was buckled. The pilot did not report any mechanical anomalies prior to the accident

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's improper preflight preparation and his failure to maintain control of the helicopter.

## Findings

<b>Personnel issues</b>	Flight planning/navigation - Pilot
<b>Personnel issues</b>	Aircraft control - Pilot



## Factual Information

### History of Flight

<b>Uncontrolled descent</b>	Miscellaneous/other
<b>Other</b>	Loss of control in flight (Defining event)

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial; Flight instructor	<b>Age:</b>	28, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Right
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Helicopter	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Helicopter	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	Helicopter; Instrument helicopter	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 None	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	July 1, 2007
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	Yes	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	February 1, 2007
<b>Flight Time:</b>	1750 hours (Total, all aircraft), 750 hours (Total, this make and model), 1700 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 109 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 32 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Eurocopter France	<b>Registration:</b>	N152TA
<b>Model/Series:</b>	AS350B1	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Helicopter
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	2241
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	High skid	<b>Seats:</b>	4
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	February 1, 2008 100 hour	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	4850 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	22 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Turbo shaft
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	16479 Hrs as of last inspection	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Turbomeca
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	Arrial 1 D
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	Meridian Consulting Co Incorporated	<b>Rated Power:</b>	732 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	Liberty Helicopters	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	EWR, 18 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	5 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	10:15 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	90°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Thin Overcast / 22000 ft AGL	<b>Visibility</b>	
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Broken / 2900 ft AGL	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	15 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	240°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29.95 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	17°C / 9°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	LINDEN, NJ (LDJ)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	LINDEN, NJ (LDJ)	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	10:00 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	LINDEN LDJ	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	23 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	
<b>Runway Used:</b>		<b>IFR Approach:</b>	Unknown
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>		<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Unknown

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	2 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	40.616943,-74.239997

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Alleyne, Eric
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Jeff Bulmer; Teterboro FSDO-25; Saddle Brook , NJ
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	March 31, 2008
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class</a>
<b>Note:</b>	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=67606">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=67606</a>

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