



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Franklin Furnac, Ohio	Accident Number:	CHI08CA097
Date & Time:	March 21, 2008, 11:15 Local	Registration:	N9333V
Aircraft:	Hughes 269A	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Fuel exhaustion	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The helicopter sustained substantial damage during a forced landing after a total loss of engine power during cruise flight. The helicopter was recently purchased by the left seat pilot, who did not hold a rotorcraft rating, and was being piloted by the right seat pilot at the time of the accident. The right seat pilot stated that he performed an autorotation on a hilltop, which was "sparsely populated" by 7-1/2 to 8 foot high trees. He also stated that the hilltop was the only available landing area, which was surrounded by "hostile" terrain. During the forced landing, the tail boom sustained damage on impact with trees. Examination of the helicopter revealed no usable fuel aboard.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The fuel exhaustion during cruise flight and the unsuitable terrain encountered by the pilot-in-command. A contributing factor was the trees.

Findings

Aircraft	Fuel - Fluid level
Environmental issues	Tree(s) - Not specified
Environmental issues	(general) - Not specified
Aircraft	Rotorcraft tail boom - Damaged/degraded

Factual Information

History of Flight

Enroute-descent	Fuel exhaustion (Defining event)
Emergency descent	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline transport; Commercial; Flight instructor	Age:	60, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane; Helicopter	Second Pilot Present:	
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1	Last FAA Medical Exam:	July 1, 2007
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	16387 hours (Total, all aircraft), 275 hours (Total, this make and model), 24 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 11 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Student pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Flight instructor	Age:	35, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1	Last FAA Medical Exam:	July 1, 2007
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	1746 hours (Total, all aircraft), 3 hours (Total, this make and model), 5 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Hughes	Registration:	N9333V
Model/Series:	269A	Aircraft Category:	Helicopter
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	53-0207
Landing Gear Type:	Skid	Seats:	
Date/Type of Last Inspection:		Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	H10-360-B1A
Registered Owner:	Left Seat Pilot	Rated Power:	
Operator:	Left Seat Pilot	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:		Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:		Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Visibility	
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	New Philadelphi, OH (PHD)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Ashland, KY (DWU)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Ashland Regional Airport DWU	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	10	IFR Approach:	Visual
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	38.594165,-82.760276

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Gallo, Mitchell

Additional Participating Persons:

Original Publish Date: April 30, 2008

Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: [Class](#)

Note: This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.

Investigation Docket: <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=67867>

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