



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location: Mt. Olive, Alabama Accident Number: NYC08CA195

Date & Time: May 27, 2008, 11:30 Local Registration: N368HF

Aircraft: Schweizer 269C Aircraft Damage: Substantial

Defining Event: 1 Minor, 1 None

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General aviation - Instructional

Analysis

The certificated flight instructor and student pilot were conducting a hover taxi in a Schweizer 269C helicopter, from the hangar area to a fuel pump, a distance of approximately 600 feet. The student was initially at the controls. The flight instructor took the controls from the student upon reaching the fuel pump, after the student stated he was uncomfortable landing on a raised platform in the confined area. The flight instructor landed the helicopter on the platform, where it then "entered into ground resonance." The flight instructor "rolled off the throttle immediately," but the ground resonance intensified, resulting in substantial damage to the helicopter.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The flight instructor's inadequate remedial action following an encounter with ground resonance.

Findings

Personnel issues

Delayed action - Instructor/check pilot

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing	Ground resonance

Flight instructor Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Flight instructor	Age:	49,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane; Helicopter	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane single-engine; Helicopter; Instrument airplane; Instrument helicopter	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	June 1, 2007
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	August 1, 2006
Flight Time:	2100 hours (Total, all aircraft), 150 hours (Total, this make and model), 1900 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 98 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 30 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Student pilot Information

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Certificate:	None	Age:	Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Unknown	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:			

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Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Schweizer	Registration:	N368HF
Model/Series:	269C	Aircraft Category:	Helicopter
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	S1616
Landing Gear Type:	Skid	Seats:	2
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:	HIO-360
Registered Owner:	Richard Parker	Rated Power:	190 Horsepower
Operator:	Heliflight, LLC.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KBHM	Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:	10:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 2900 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	11 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	260°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.09 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	27°C / 19°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Mt. Olive , AL (AL18)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Mt. Olive , AL (AL18)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	

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Airport Information

Airport:	Parker Field AL18	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, 1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor, 1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	33.676109,-86.867225

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Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Diaz, Dennis
Additional Participating Persons:	Phillip Fox; FAA/FSDO; Atlanta, GA
Original Publish Date:	July 30, 2008
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=68093

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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