



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	MANHATTAN, Montana	Accident Number:	DEN83LT101
Date & Time:	October 2, 1982, 18:30 Local	Registration:	N133RW
Aircraft:	SCORPION 133	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

BATTERY FAILED BECAUSE IT HAD NOT BEEN CHARGED. NO ON BOARD CHARGING PROVISION. ELECTRIC PUMP COULD NOT OPERATE WITHOUT ELECTRICITY. NO FUEL TO ENGINE. DURING AN AUTOROTATIVE LANDING, THE TAIL ROTOR WAS DAMAGED. WITH NO TAIL ROTOR CONTROL, THE HELICOPTER SLID SIDWAYS AFTER TOUCHDOWN AND ROLLED OVER.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - NONMECHANICAL
Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

Findings

1. (C) ELECTRICAL SYSTEM,BATTERY - OUTPUT LOW
2. (C) FUEL SYSTEM,PUMP - DISABLED
3. (C) FLUID,FUEL - STARVATION

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

4. AUTOROTATION - PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #3: ROLL OVER

Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	28, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Unknown
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 Valid Medical-w/ waivers/lim	Last FAA Medical Exam:	February 2, 1982
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	500 hours (Total, all aircraft), 410 hours (Total, this make and model), 465 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 23 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	SCORPION	Registration:	N133RW
Model/Series:	133 133	Aircraft Category:	Helicopter
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:		Serial Number:	2552
Landing Gear Type:	Skid	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1200 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	0 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	389 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	ROTORWAY
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	133
Registered Owner:	JOE MOLENDYK	Rated Power:	65 Horsepower
Operator:	JOE MOLENDYK	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	

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:	Scattered / 10000 ft AGL	Visibility	50 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Unknown	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	15 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	220°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	55°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	MANHATTAN , MT	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	MANHATTAN , MT	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	18:29 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:		Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	0 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	0 ft / 0 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):

Additional Participating Persons:

Original Publish Date: October 2, 1983

Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: [Class](#)

Note:

Investigation Docket: <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=71562>

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](#).