



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Brookeland, Texas	Accident Number:	CEN09CA290
Date & Time:	May 10, 2009, 15:00 Local	Registration:	N602DB
Aircraft:	BOLTON RICKY D ROTORWAY E	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control in flight	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The private pilot reported that while hovering prior to takeoff from his private property, a gust of wind blew the experimental helicopter sideways. The right skid caught the ground and the pilot then pulled on the collective, "a little too hard." The helicopter tail rotor then hit a tractor and the left skid hit the ground. The helicopter rolled coming to rest on its left side. The pilot was not injured. The winds at a local airport 15 miles to the north were reported to be from 170 degrees at 12 knots gusting to 17 knots.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot failed to maintain control while hovering in gusty conditions.

Findings

Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Environmental issues	Gusts - Response/compensation
Aircraft	(general) - Not attained/maintained

Factual Information

History of Flight

Maneuvering-hover	Loss of control in flight (Defining event)
Maneuvering-hover	Attempted remediation/recovery
Maneuvering-hover	Abrupt maneuver
Maneuvering-hover	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
Landing	Dynamic rollover

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	60, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Right
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 1 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	April 28, 2009
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 300 hours (Total, all aircraft), 27 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	BOLTON RICKY D	Registration:	N602DB
Model/Series:	ROTORWAY E	Aircraft Category:	Helicopter
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental (Special)	Serial Number:	6299
Landing Gear Type:	Skid	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	AMA/EXPR
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	RI 600N
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	147 Horsepower
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KJAS,213 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:	15:05 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 4100 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 5500 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	12 knots / 17 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	170°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.01 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	31°C / 22°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Brookeland, TX	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	Unknown
Destination:	Brookeland, TX	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Private Property	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 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	31.1525,-93.989723(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Gamble, William
Additional Participating Persons:	Randy E Burke; Federal Aviation Administration, FSDO; Houston, TX
Original Publish Date:	March 3, 2010
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=73816

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