



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Stringtown, Oklahoma	Accident Number:	CEN09CA359
Date & Time:	June 11, 2009, 07:40 Local	Registration:	N34SD
Aircraft:	Hiller UH-12E	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Collision during takeoff/land	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Analysis

The company's president reported that the helicopter pilot was "taking off from an area with large bushes and scrubby trees about 500 feet ahead. He believed he was somewhat distracted because of learning of the serious illness of his mother. ...When it appeared he might have difficulty clearing the obstacles to the left, he turned right to pass under the power lines. The tail rotor snagged the lower power line, causing the helicopter to impact the ground... The wreckage remained intact except for portions of the tail rotor and main rotor which broke off after impact." An unidentified witness reported that the helicopter had struck "lines" while conducting agricultural operations, and that the helicopter was "shattered" and "totaled." The caller stated that the helicopter wreckage had been recovered and relocated to Mineral Wells, Texas.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to maintain clearance from power lines. Contributing to the accident was the pilot's preoccupation with personal affairs.

Findings

Environmental issues	Wire - Awareness of condition
Personnel issues	Monitoring environment - Pilot
Personnel issues	(general) - Pilot

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Collision during takeoff/land (Defining event)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	61, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Center
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Glider; Gyroplane; Helicopter	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	January 29, 2009
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	March 12, 2009
Flight Time:	23219 hours (Total, all aircraft), 825 hours (Total, this make and model), 23119 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 55 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 52 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Hiller	Registration:	N34SD
Model/Series:	UH-12E	Aircraft Category:	Helicopter
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Restricted (Special)	Serial Number:	1618
Landing Gear Type:	High skid	Seats:	3
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	August 26, 2008 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3200 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	55 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	4139 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	VO-540-B1A
Registered Owner:	Texas Air Cargo, Inc.	Rated Power:	305 Horsepower
Operator:	Texas Air Cargo, Inc.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument (IMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	AQR,590 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	7 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	07:14 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	230°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 300 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 300 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.09 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	25°C / 22°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Stringtown, OK (NONE)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Stringtown, OK (NONE)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	07:20 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

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:	34.417499,-96.050552(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Scott, Arnold
Additional Participating Persons:	David Doerner; FAA Flight Standards District Office; Oklahoma City, OK
Original Publish Date:	September 10, 2009
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=74056

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