



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Meiners Oaks, California	Accident Number:	WPR10CA023
Date & Time:	October 16, 2009, 12:00 Local	Registration:	N496SB
Aircraft:	BOYKIN STEPHEN VANCE ROTORWAY E	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Collision during takeoff/land	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The private pilot reported that he completed an emergency off-airport landing, in mountainous terrain, to avoid poor weather and fog during a cross-country flight in the single engine helicopter. He reported that he sat in position for about forty minutes to burn off fuel and "...lighten the aircraft." The pilot then lifted off and repositioned the helicopter to a nearby dirt road. The pilot sat in position for an additional hour to "burn off as much fuel as I could to lighten the ship." The pilot departed a second time; however, during the takeoff the helicopter "didn't have enough lift" and subsequently settled and collided with the terrain. The pilot reported that he thought he was taking off into the wind, instead he took off with a tailwind. The helicopter sustained substantial damage to the fuselage and tailboom assembly. No preimpact mechanical failures were reported.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's improper preflight planning which resulted in a takeoff with a tailwind.

Findings

Environmental issues	Tailwind - Effect on equipment
Personnel issues	Flight planning/navigation - Pilot
Aircraft	Climb capability - Not attained/maintained

Factual Information

History of Flight

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

Certificate:	Private	Age:	50, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine sea	Seat Occupied:	Left
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 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	November 4, 2008
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	170 hours (Total, all aircraft), 62 hours (Total, this make and model), 91 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	BOYKIN STEPHEN VANCE	Registration:	N496SB
Model/Series:	ROTORWAY E	Aircraft Category:	Helicopter
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental (Special)	Serial Number:	6992
Landing Gear Type:	Skid	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	July 30, 2009 Condition	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Turbo shaft
Airframe Total Time:	107 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Solar
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	T-63-T
Registered Owner:	BOYKIN STEPHEN V	Rated Power:	150 Horsepower
Operator:	BOYKIN STEPHEN V	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	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	22 knots / 25 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	40°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	28°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	In the vicinity - Patches - Fog		
Departure Point:	Meiners Oaks, CA	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	San Luis Obispo, CA	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	12:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	

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:	34.449722,-119.275276(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Hogenson, Dennis
Additional Participating Persons:	Norm Robertson; FAA FSDO; Van Nuys, CA
Original Publish Date:	April 19, 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=74926

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