



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	Las Vegas, Nevada	<b>Accident Number:</b>	WPR11CA250
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	June 4, 2011, 10:15 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N6128U
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Schweizer 269C	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Loss of control in flight	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Serious, 1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

According to the pilot, while on a sightseeing flight he flew over a mesa and commenced a hover maneuver about 12 feet above a ridge line. When the wind speed increased he attempted to depart the area. The pilot stated that he encountered a strong downdraft in the estimated 20-knot wind. While flying toward lower elevation terrain on the lee side of the mesa in an effort to depart the area, the helicopter's skids impacted rocks and the helicopter rolled over.

## 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 adequate clearance from terrain while attempting a transition from hovering flight to forward flight over a mesa in windy, downdraft conditions.

## Findings

<b>Environmental issues</b>	Downdraft - Contributed to outcome
<b>Aircraft</b>	Altitude - Not attained/maintained

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

<b>Maneuvering-hover</b>	Loss of control in flight (Defining event)
<b>Maneuvering-low-alt flying</b>	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Airline transport; Flight engineer; Flight instructor	<b>Age:</b>	60, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane; Helicopter	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	Airplane multi-engine; Airplane single-engine; Helicopter; Instrument airplane; Instrument helicopter	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 1 With waivers/limitations	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	January 26, 2011
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	Yes	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	May 27, 2011
<b>Flight Time:</b>	31000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 160 hours (Total, this make and model), 23000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 60 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 40 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 0 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Schweizer	<b>Registration:</b>	N6128U
<b>Model/Series:</b>	269C	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Helicopter
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	S1655
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Skid	<b>Seats:</b>	3
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	100 hour	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	2020 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>		<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	HIO-360 SER
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	L J AIR CORP	<b>Rated Power:</b>	190 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	Airwork, LLC	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>		<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Observation Time:</b>		<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Visibility</b>	50 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	7 knots / 20 knots	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	100°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29.94 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	24°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Las Vegas, NV (VGT )	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	Las Vegas, NV (VGT )	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	09:20 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Serious	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 Serious, 1 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	35.916667,-115.316665(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Pollack, Wayne
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Gary Campbell; Federal Aviation Administration; Las Vegas, NV
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	September 19, 2011
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class</a>
<b>Note:</b>	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=79299">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=79299</a>

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