



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

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<b>Location:</b>	Porterville, California	<b>Accident Number:</b>	WPR11CA394
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	July 31, 2011, 11:00 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N6260C
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Bell 47G	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Collision during takeoff/land	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 137: Agricultural		

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## Analysis

The pilot reported that during the agricultural operation he landed the helicopter into the wind to reload with fuel and agricultural chemicals. While the loader was mixing the chemicals, the pilot noted that the wind shifted to a tailwind condition. The pilot also noted that the rotor blades were dirty, but he forgot to clean them before departure. During the takeoff, the helicopter was unable to gain any lift and it started to sink back to the ground. The helicopter impacted the ground moments after takeoff with a slight nose low attitude which resulted in the skids collapsing and the main rotor blades contacting the tailboom. The pilot reported no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airframe or the engine that would have precluded normal operation.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's decision to takeoff in a tailwind condition, and his subsequent failure to attain sufficient lift during the takeoff.

## Findings

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<b>Personnel issues</b>	Aircraft control - Pilot
<b>Environmental issues</b>	Tailwind - Effect on operation
<b>Personnel issues</b>	Decision making/judgment - Pilot
<b>Aircraft</b>	Climb capability - Not attained/maintained

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

<b>Takeoff</b>	Loss of control in flight
<b>Takeoff</b>	Collision during takeoff/land (Defining event)

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	67, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Helicopter	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 With waivers/limitations	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	June 3, 2011
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	May 15, 2011
<b>Flight Time:</b>	(Estimated) 24000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 3500 hours (Total, this make and model), 23600 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Bell	<b>Registration:</b>	N6260C
<b>Model/Series:</b>	47G 5	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Helicopter
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Restricted (Special)	<b>Serial Number:</b>	7952
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Skid	<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	June 6, 2011 100 hour	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	2850 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	69 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	1159 Hrs as of last inspection	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	V0435
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	Agra Fly	<b>Rated Power:</b>	265 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	Agra Fly	<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>	10 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	/	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>		<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29.95 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	32°C / 17°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Porterville, CA (KPTV)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	Porterville, CA (KPTV)	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>		<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	Porterville Municipal Airport KPTV	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	
<b>Runway Used:</b>		<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>		<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	None

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	36.058887,-119.01667(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Rich, Jefferey
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Chris Harris; Federal Aviation Administration; Fresno, CA
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	October 17, 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=81564">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=81564</a>

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