



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	LAKE SEMINOLE, Georgia	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ATL91LA102
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	May 29, 1991, 06:40 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N9650N
<b>Aircraft:</b>	BELL UH-1B	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Serious, 1 Minor
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Aerial observation		

## Analysis

THE HELICOPTER WAS BEING USED FOR AERIAL OBSERVATION OF PREVIOUSLY SPRAYED AQUATIC PLANTS. A DAWN TAKE OFF WAS MADE AND THE FLIGHT PROCEEDED AT LOW LEVEL ALONG THE RIVER. THE PILOT REPORTED THAT HE LOOKED AT THE OBSERVER THEN LOOKED FORWARD AGAIN. NO OBSTRUCTION WAS SEEN, HOWEVER, A BUMP WAS FELT AND THE HELICOPTER STRUCK THE RIVER SURFACE. THE PILOT AND HIS PASSENGER EXITED THE HELICOPTER UNDERWATER.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE FAILURE OF THE PILOT TO MAINTAIN CLEARANCE FROM THE SURFACE.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

### Findings

1. TERRAIN CONDITION - WATER
2. (C) CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Airline transport	<b>Age:</b>	49, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Unknown
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Helicopter	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	Airplane multi-engine; Airplane single-engine; Helicopter	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	November 6, 1990
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	UNK	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	5911 hours (Total, all aircraft), 162 hours (Total, this make and model)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	BELL	<b>Registration:</b>	N9650N
<b>Model/Series:</b>	UH-1B UH-1B	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Helicopter
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Restricted (Special)	<b>Serial Number:</b>	638674
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Skid	<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	February 1, 1991 100 hour	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	8500 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	53 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Turbo shaft
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	4951 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	T53-L11D
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	COLONY SERVICES, INC.	<b>Rated Power:</b>	1100 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	COLONY SERVICES, INC.	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	
<b>Operator Does Business As:</b>	COLONY HELICOPTERS	<b>Operator Designator Code:</b>	

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Instrument (IMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Dawn
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	TLH ,81 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	30 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	06:51 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	130°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Scattered / 100 ft AGL	<b>Visibility</b>	
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	/	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	0°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	19°C / 19°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	N/A - None - Fog		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	CHATTAHOOCHEE , FL (NONE)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>		<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	06:40 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	
<b>Runway Used:</b>	0	<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 Minor	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 Serious	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 Serious, 1 Minor	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Hicks, Preston
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	DAVID DEESE; COLLEGE PARK , GA
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	March 10, 1993
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class</a>
<b>Note:</b>	
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=8412">https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=8412</a>

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