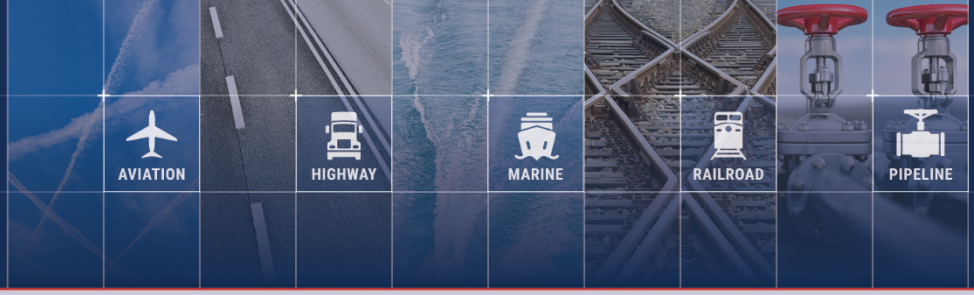

Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Rialto, California	**Accident Number:**	WPR13CA160
Date & Time:	March 25, 2013, 10:15 Local	**Registration:**	N90570
Aircraft:	Hughes 269C	**Aircraft Damage:**	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control in flight	**Injuries:**	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

According to the student pilot, while in a hover before departure, he attempted a 360-degree right pedal turn. About 180 degrees into the turn, the rotation speed started to increase. The pilot thought his reaction to the increased rotation speed was not as decisive as it should have been, and the helicopter departing controlled flight. The pilot stated that he did not press on the left pedal; instead, he released pressure on the right pedal. The helicopter came to rest upright after impacting the ground, which resulted in substantial damage to the tail rotor drive shaft and boom. The pilot reported no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures with the helicopter 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 student pilot's failure to maintain helicopter control while maneuvering in a hover.

Findings

Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Student/instructed pilot

Factual Information

History of Flight

Maneuvering-hover	Loss of control in flight (Defining event)
Uncontrolled descent	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline transport; Commercial	**Age:**	65,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine land	**Seat Occupied:**	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	**Restraint Used:**	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	**Second Pilot Present:**	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	**Toxicology Performed:**	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 With waivers/limitations	**Last FAA Medical Exam:**	February 1, 2012
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	**Last Flight Review or Equivalent:**	
Flight Time:	3300 hours (Total, all aircraft), 20 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Hughes	**Registration:**	N90570
Model/Series:	269C	**Aircraft Category:**	Helicopter
Year of Manufacture:		**Amateur Built:**	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	**Serial Number:**	1180736
Landing Gear Type:	Skid	**Seats:**	
Date/Type of Last Inspection:		**Certified Max Gross Wt.:**	
Time Since Last Inspection:		**Engines:**	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		**Engine Manufacturer:**	LYCOMING
ELT:		**Engine Model/Series:**	HIO-360-D1A
Registered Owner:	Western Helicopters Inc.	**Rated Power:**	190 Horsepower
Operator:	Western Helicopters Inc.	**Operating Certificate(s) Held:**	

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**	
Lowest Ceiling:		**Visibility (RVR):**	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	**Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:**	/
Wind Direction:		**Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:**	/
Altimeter Setting:		**Temperature/Dew Point:**	
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Rialto, CA (L67)	**Type of Flight Plan Filed:**	None
Destination:	Rialto, CA (L67)	**Type of Clearance:**	None
Departure Time:		**Type of Airspace:**	

Airport Information

Airport:	Rialto Municipal Airport L67	**Runway Surface Type:**	
Airport Elevation:	1455 ft msl	**Runway Surface Condition:**	
Runway Used:		**IFR Approach:**	None
Runway Length/Width:		**VFR Approach/Landing:**	None

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:**	34.129165,-117.40139(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Cornejo, Tealeye
Additional Participating Persons:	Michael R Baudoux; Federal Aviation Administration; Riverside, CA
Original Publish Date:	July 23, 2013
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.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=86500