



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Somerset, Colorado	Accident Number:	CEN15CA312
Date & Time:	July 3, 2015, 17:30 Local	Registration:	N974BR
Aircraft:	Eurocopter EC 130 B4	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Miscellaneous/other	Injuries:	5 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air taxi & commuter - Non-scheduled		

Analysis

The pilot had flown multiple trips into and out of the ranch prior to the accident. He also had seen wires in the area and had a discussion with local fishing guides regarding the location of wires in the area. As the pilot was preparing to depart the ranch with the last load of passengers he was approached by a guide who wanted to video the helicopter for their website. The pilot agreed and after lifting off, made a pass near the ranch for the video. The pilot stated he was flying toward the mountains when he heard a "small ting" and he knew the helicopter contacted a wire. He made an uneventful off airport landing in a nearby clearing. Although the pilot stated he never saw the wire it was later determined the helicopter contacted was a small copper static wire. A postaccident inspection of the helicopter revealed two of the three main rotor blades were beyond repair, at least two of the Fenestron blades were beyond repair, and the entire Fenestron stator blade assembly needed to be replaced.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's decision to fly at a low altitude when he was aware that there were wires in the area which resulted in the helicopter contacting a wire.

Findings

Environmental issues	Wire - Effect on equipment
Personnel issues	Decision making/judgment - Pilot

Factual Information

History of Flight

Maneuvering-low-alt flying	Miscellaneous/other (Defining event)
Maneuvering-low-alt flying	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
Maneuvering-low-alt flying	Off-field or emergency landing

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Flight instructor; Private	Age:	31
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	4-point
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Helicopter	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	December 4, 2014
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	April 29, 2015
Flight Time:	4600 hours (Total, all aircraft), 3200 hours (Total, this make and model), 4200 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 30 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 16 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 0 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Eurocopter	Registration:	N974BR
Model/Series:	EC 130 B4	Aircraft Category:	Helicopter
Year of Manufacture:	2009	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	4672
Landing Gear Type:	Skid	Seats:	7
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	5350 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Turbo shaft
Airframe Total Time:	808.5 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Turbomecca
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	Arriel 282
Registered Owner:	JAYHAWK INC	Rated Power:	728 Horsepower
Operator:	JAYHAWK INC	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand air taxi (135)
Operator Does Business As:	Aspen Heli Charter	Operator Designator Code:	RBOA

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:	Few / 3000 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.03 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	29°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Aspen, CO (ASE)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Somerset, CO	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	05:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	4 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	Unknown
Total Injuries:	5 None	Latitude, Longitude:	38.988887,-107.348335(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Sullivan, Pamela
Additional Participating Persons:	Kent Gibbons; FAA; Salt Lake City, UT
Original Publish Date:	September 11, 2015
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=91608

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