



AVIATION



HIGHWAY



MARINE



RAILROAD



PIPELINE

# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	Grace, Idaho	<b>Accident Number:</b>	GAA19CA110
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	January 3, 2019, 10:00 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N4246Z
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Robinson R44	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Low altitude operation/event	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

The helicopter pilot reported that, shortly after liftoff to the north from his property, he saw coyote tracks and "wanted to inspect." To better observe the coyote, he maneuvered at a low altitude, which led him to cross over a power line. After crossing the power line for a third time, he spotted the coyote, turned left, diverted his attention from the power line, continued to turn left, and the main rotor blades struck the power line. He maintained control of the helicopter and landed without further incident.

The helicopter sustained substantial damage to the main rotor blades.

The pilot reported that there were no preimpact mechanical failures or malfunctions 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 pilot's failure to maintain clearance from the power lines.

## Findings

<b>Personnel issues</b>	Task monitoring/vigilance - Pilot
<b>Environmental issues</b>	Wire - Effect on equipment

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

<b>Maneuvering-low-alt flying</b>	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
<b>Maneuvering</b>	Low altitude operation/event (Defining event)

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	57,Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Right
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Helicopter	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	3-point
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 3 Without waivers/limitations	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	April 5, 2018
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	December 5, 2018
<b>Flight Time:</b>	(Estimated) 1411 hours (Total, all aircraft), 143 hours (Total, this make and model), 1411 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Robinson	<b>Registration:</b>	N4246Z
<b>Model/Series:</b>	R44 II	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Helicopter
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	2009	<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	12697
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	N/A; Skid	<b>Seats:</b>	4
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	Unknown	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	2500 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, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	IO-540-AE1A5
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	On file	<b>Rated Power:</b>	
<b>Operator:</b>	On file	<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>	KU78,5839 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	12 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	17:15 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	25°
<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>	4 knots / None	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	None / None
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	350°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	N/A / N/A
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30.3 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	-18°C / -21°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Grace, ID	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	Grace, ID	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	09:30 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## 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>	42.461944,-111.702224(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Gutierrez, Eric
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Robert D Lesitsky; FAA; Salt Lake City, UT
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	September 26, 2019
<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=98853">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=98853</a>

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