Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Juneau, Alaska	**Accident Number:**	GAA19CA233
Date & Time:	April 27, 2019, 17:37 Local	**Registration:**	N288CH
Aircraft:	Aerospatiale AS350	**Aircraft Damage:**	Substantial
Defining Event:	Miscellaneous/other	**Injuries:**	6 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air taxi & commuter - Non-scheduled		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, during the second landing on a "ridge" and while dropping off passengers for skiing, the helicopter's tail rotor contacted a higher area of snow-covered terrain.

The helicopter sustained substantial damage to the tailboom and the tail rotor gear box's mounting surface.

The pilot reported that there were no preaccident 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 a proper approach to landing on a ridge and his failure to maintain clearance from snow-covered terrain, which resulted in a tail rotor strike.

Findings

Aircraft	Descent/approach/glide path - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Task monitoring/vigilance - Pilot
Environmental issues	Snow/slush/ice covered surface - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing	Miscellaneous/other (Defining event)
Landing	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Flight instructor	**Age:**	40,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	**Seat Occupied:**	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	**Restraint Used:**	4-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Helicopter	**Second Pilot Present:**	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Helicopter; Instrument helicopter	**Toxicology Performed:**	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Without waivers/limitations	**Last FAA Medical Exam:**	February 6, 2019
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	**Last Flight Review or Equivalent:**	April 2, 2019
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 3707 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1384 hours (Total, this make and model), 3650 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 91 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 37 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Aerospatiale	**Registration:**	N288CH
Model/Series:	AS350 B2	**Aircraft Category:**	Helicopter
Year of Manufacture:	1990	**Amateur Built:**	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	**Serial Number:**	2383
Landing Gear Type:	High skid	**Seats:**	7
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	March 5, 2019 100 hour	**Certified Max Gross Wt.:**	4961 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		**Engines:**	1 Turbo shaft
Airframe Total Time:	10172.3 Hrs at time of accident	**Engine Manufacturer:**	Safran
ELT:	C126 installed, not activated	**Engine Model/Series:**	Ariel 1D1
Registered Owner:	Coastal Helicopters Inc	**Rated Power:**	732 Horsepower
Operator:	Coastal Helicopters Inc	**Operating Certificate(s) Held:**	Rotorcraft external load (133), On-demand air taxi (135), Commercial air tour (136), Agricultural aircraft (137)
Operator Does Business As:		**Operator Designator Code:**	XCHA

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	**Condition of Light:**	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PAJN,24 ft msl	**Distance from Accident Site:**	9 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	02:53 Local	**Direction from Accident Site:**	203°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 6000 ft AGL	**Visibility**	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:		**Visibility (RVR):**	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	6 knots / None	**Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:**	None / None
Wind Direction:	250°	**Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:**	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.38 inches Hg	**Temperature/Dew Point:**	14°C / -8°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Juneau, AK (PAJN)	**Type of Flight Plan Filed:**	Company VFR
Destination:	Juneau, AK	**Type of Clearance:**	Unknown
Departure Time:		**Type of Airspace:**	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	**Aircraft Damage:**	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	5 None	**Aircraft Fire:**	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	**Aircraft Explosion:**	None
Total Injuries:	6 None	**Latitude, Longitude:**	58.491111,-134.455001(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Gutierrez, Eric
Additional Participating Persons:	David Longan ; FAA; Juneau, AK
Original Publish Date:	March 20, 2020
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=99346

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