



# National Transportation Safety Board



## Inadvertent Activation of Fuel Shutoff Lever and Subsequent Ditching

Liberty Helicopters Inc., AS350 B2, N350LH  
New York, New York, March 11, 2018

Investigator-in-Charge presentation

# History of Flight

- FlyNYON branded flight operated by Liberty Helicopters
- Part 91 aerial photography flight
- Engine lost power
- Autorotation and ditching on East River
- Five passengers drowned
- Pilot sustained minor injuries



# History of Flight: Animation



# Safety Issues

- Lack of fuel shutoff lever (FSOL) protection from inadvertent activation
- Emergency flotation system design, maintenance, and certification
- Harness/tether system role in passenger egress

# Safety Issues

- Inadequacy of the FAA's review and approval for supplemental passenger restraint systems (SPRS) postaccident
- Ineffective safety management at both Liberty and NYONair

# Safety Issues

- Liberty and NYONair's exploitation of the aerial photography exception
- Lack of policy and guidance for FAA oversight of Part 91 passenger-carrying operations
- Need for guidance and procedures to address passenger intoxication

# Parties to Investigation

- Federal Aviation Administration
- Liberty Helicopters Inc.
- NYONair
- Dart Aerospace

# ICAO Annex 13 Participants: France

## Bureau d'Enquêtes et d'Analyses pour la Sécurité de l'Aviation Civile (BEA)

- European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)
- Airbus Helicopters
- Safran Helicopter Engines



# ICAO Annex 13 Participants: Canada

## Transportation Safety Board of Canada (TSB)

- Transport Canada
- EuroTec Canada



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