On May 4, 2019, about 0945 Pacific daylight time, a Bell 206B helicopter, N49643, impacted terrain while spraying paint material on top of buildings about 2 miles northwest of the Oxnard Airport (OXR); Oxnard, California. The commercial pilot was seriously injured, and the helicopter was destroyed by a post impact fire. The helicopter was registered to and operated by Aspen AG Helicopters, Inc as a Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 133 aerial application flight. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed and the flight was operated on a company visual flight rules flight plan. The flight originated from OXR at about 0630.

The operator reported that this was the first load for the third application flight of the day. The pilot was on his third pass over the buildings when he noticed that he needed more and more left cyclic input to maintain straight and level flight. He maneuvered away from the buildings, however, he found that the helicopter was continuing an ever-tightening right hand turn. With the cyclic full left, the pilot was unable to maintain control of the helicopter and it impacted the ground at about a $45^\circ$ bank; a post impact fire ensued.

The helicopter has been recovered to a secure location for further examination.
### Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conditions at Accident Site:</th>
<th>Visual Conditions</th>
<th>Condition of Light:</th>
<th>Day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Observation Facility, Elevation:</td>
<td>OXR, 44 ft msl</td>
<td>Observation Time:</td>
<td>0951 PDT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance from Accident Site:</td>
<td>2 Nautical Miles</td>
<td>Temperature/Dew Point:</td>
<td>16°C / 12°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowest Cloud Condition:</td>
<td>Clear</td>
<td>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</td>
<td>3 knots / , Variable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowest Ceiling:</td>
<td>Overcast / 1500 ft agl</td>
<td>Visibility:</td>
<td>8 Miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altimeter Setting:</td>
<td>29.94 inches Hg</td>
<td>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</td>
<td>Company VFR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Departure Point:</td>
<td>Oxnard, CA (OXR)</td>
<td>Destination:</td>
<td>Oxnard, CA (OXR)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Wreckage and Impact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crew Injuries:</th>
<th>1 Serious</th>
<th>Aircraft Damage:</th>
<th>Substantial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Passenger Injuries:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Aircraft Fire:</td>
<td>On-Ground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground Injuries:</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Aircraft Explosion:</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Injuries:</td>
<td>1 Serious</td>
<td>Latitude, Longitude:</td>
<td>34.220278, -119.223889 (est)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Administrative Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</th>
<th>Samantha A Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Additional Participating Persons:</td>
<td>Ivan Salazar; Federal Aviation Administration; Van Nuys, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Note:</td>
<td>The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>