



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	WEST DELTA 105B, GM	Accident Number:	FTW99LA077
Date & Time:	02/01/1999, 1056 CST	Registration:	N6603X
Aircraft:	Bell 206L-3	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Positioning		

Analysis

The helicopter's tail rotor made contact with the offshore platform's windsock during final approach to landing. The pilot heard a buzzing sound followed by a right yaw. He then executed a hovering autorotation to the platform. Inspection of the windsock support frame showed signs of tail rotor impact damage.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to maintain clearance with the oil platform's windsock on final approach to landing.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - FINAL APPROACH

- Findings
1. OBJECT - WIND SOCK/INDICATOR
 2. (C) CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY DESCENT/LANDING

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	36
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane; Helicopter
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	3893 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2517 hours (Total, this make and model), 3108 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 152 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 49 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 12 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Bell	Registration:	N6603X
Model/Series:	206L-3 206L-3	Engines:	1 Turbo Shaft
Operator:	PETROLEUM HELICOPTERS, INC.	Engine Manufacturer:	Allison
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand Air Taxi (135)	Engine Model/Series:	250-C30P
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Positioning		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Pilot
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 15000 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	10 knots / , 330°
Temperature:	18° C	Visibility	8 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	SOUTH PASS 25, GM (NONE)	Destination:	

Airport Information

Airport:	WEST DELTA 105B HELIPORT (NONE)	Runway Surface Type:	Concrete
Runway Used:	0	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:			

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	NICOLE LUPINO	Adopted Date:	04/25/2001
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at pubinq@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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