



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

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<b>Location:</b>	SHELTON, WA	<b>Accident Number:</b>	SEA99LA038
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	03/02/1999, 1120 PST	<b>Registration:</b>	N194AC
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Sikorsky S-64E	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal, 2 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 133: Rotorcraft Ext. Load		

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## Analysis

The pilot of the aero-logging helicopter had lowered a multiple-log load onto the landing site, hit the release switch to release the two choker cables, and then began to move away from the area. One of the choker lines momentarily failed to release, resulting in one end of one of the logs lifting into the air and then falling back to the ground. One of the ground crew members entered the landing area after the logs were initially lowered to the ground, but prior to the release of the second cable. When the end of the log lifted into the air and fell back to the ground, it fell on the crew member, inflicting fatal injuries. It was the opinion of some of the other crew members that the victim never noticed that the second cable had not yet released or that the end of the log was being lifted back into the air. According to Washington Administrative Code, Chapter 296-54, 'Logs shall be laid on the ground and the helicopter will be completely free of the choker(s) before workers approach the logs.'

## Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The failure of the victim to follow the procedure that required him to make sure that all choker lines had separated from the helicopter's release mechanism prior to entering the landing (collection area).

## Findings

Occurrence #1: AIRFRAME/COMPONENT/SYSTEM FAILURE/MALFUNCTION  
Phase of Operation: HOVER

### Findings

1. (F) EXTERNAL LOAD CABLE/HOOK - SNAGGED  
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Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT  
Phase of Operation: HOVER

### Findings

2. (C) OBJECT - OTHER PERSON  
3. (C) PROCEDURES/DIRECTIVES - NOT FOLLOWED - GROUND PERSONNEL

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	45
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Helicopter	<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Flight Time:</b>	16800 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1500 hours (Total, this make and model), 10000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 45 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Sikorsky	<b>Registration:</b>	N194AC
<b>Model/Series:</b>	S-64E S-64E	<b>Engines:</b>	2 Turbo Shaft
<b>Operator:</b>	ERICKSON AIR CRANE CO. LLC	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	P&W
<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>		<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	JFTD-12-4A
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 133: Rotorcraft Ext. Load		

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual Conditions	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	, 0 ft msl	<b>Weather Information Source:</b>	Pilot
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Overcast / 0 ft agl	<b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>	Light and Variable / ,
<b>Temperature:</b>	4° C	<b>Visibility</b>	5 Miles
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>			
<b>Departure Point:</b>		<b>Destination:</b>	

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	2 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	None
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>			

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	ORRIN K ANDERSON	<b>Adopted Date:</b>	06/21/2000
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	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 <a href="mailto:pubinq@ntsb.gov">pubinq@ntsb.gov</a> , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/</a> .		

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