



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	UMPQUA, OR	Accident Number:	SEA95LA110
Date & Time:	06/01/1995, 0905 PDT	Registration:	N27FL
Aircraft:	GARLICK TH-1L	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 133: Rotorcraft Ext. Load		

Analysis

WITNESSES SAW THE HELICOPTER STRIKE ITS TAIL ROTOR ON A TREE WHILE ATTEMPTING TO LIFT A 3,000 POUND LOG SECTION USING A 150-FOOT LIFT LINE. THE TREE STRIKE DISABLED THE TAIL ROTOR, RESULTING IN LOSS OF DIRECTIONAL CONTROL. THE HELICOPTER SUBSEQUENTLY IMPACTED AT THE TOP OF A 150-FOOT-HIGH ROCK BLUFF, THEN SLID OFF THE BLUFF, COMING TO REST IN AN INVERTED ATTITUDE ON A 50 TO 60 PERCENT SLOPE ABOUT 250 FEET BELOW THE INITIAL IMPACT POINT.

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 A TREE, RESULTING IN A TAIL ROTOR BLADE STRIKE ON THE TREE WHICH DISABLED THE TAIL ROTOR. CONTRIBUTING TO THE ACCIDENT WAS THE 150-FOOT-HIGH ROCK BLUFF.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

1. OBJECT - TREE(S)
 2. (C) CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
 3. (C) ROTOR SYSTEM, TAIL ROTOR BLADE - BLADE STRIKE
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Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

4. (C) ROTOR SYSTEM, TAIL ROTOR - DISABLED
 5. LOAD JETTISON - PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

6. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - CLIFF

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	50
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	8628 hours (Total, all aircraft), 384 hours (Total, this make and model), 6188 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 204 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 84 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	GARLICK	Registration:	N27FL
Model/Series:	TH-1L TH-1L	Engines:	1 Turbo Shaft
Operator:	SCHUYLER, SID	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Operating Certificate(s) Held:		Engine Model/Series:	T53-13B
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 133: Rotorcraft Ext. Load		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	RBG, 525 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Calm / ,
Temperature:	18°C	Visibility	30 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	MYRTLE CREEK, OR (165)	Destination:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	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):	GREGG NESEMEIER	Adopted Date:	12/19/1995
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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