



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	FRANKLIN, LA	Accident Number:	FTW96LA285
Date & Time:	07/01/1996, 0930 CDT	Registration:	N14637
Aircraft:	Hiller UH12	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Analysis

The pilot reported that he heard a 'bang' and the engine started 'running rough' while the helicopter was operating at about 100 feet AGL. The pilot elected to execute a precautionary landing to 'investigate the source of the engine problems.' The pilot stated that during the precautionary landing the 'rotor RPM started to bleed and sufficient RPM could not be maintained for a successful landing.' During the low rotor RPM landing touchdown to a muddy grass area, the front cross tube collapsed and the aft skid settled into the mud. Examination of the airframe revealed that the tailboom, tailrotor gearbox, and a portion of the vertical stabilizer were severed from the helicopter as result of impact with the main rotor blades. The reason for the partial loss of engine power could not be determined.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: loss of engine power for undetermined reasons, and the pilot's failure to maintain rotor RPM. A factor was the unsuitable terrain available for the precautionary landing.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER

Phase of Operation: CRUISE

Findings

1. (C) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED

Occurrence #2: HARD LANDING

Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

2. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - NONE SUITABLE

3. (C) ROTOR RPM - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	3500 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Hiller	Registration:	N14637
Model/Series:	UH12 UH12	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	DEWAYNE C. DAVIS	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	VO-540
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

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:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Calm / , Variable
Temperature:		Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	PATTERSON, LA (PTN)	Destination:	

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):	JOYCE M SMITH	Adopted Date:	02/18/1997
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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