



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	INTRACOSTAL CTY, LA	Accident Number:	FTW97FA208B
Date & Time:	06/01/1997, 1125 CDT	Registration:	N2773A
Aircraft:	Bell 206L-1	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Positioning		

Analysis

N115AL, a Bell 206B helicopter, and N2773A, a Bell 206L-1 helicopter, collided in midair approximately 3 nm west of Intracoastal City, Louisiana. N2773A was in cruise flight, transiting through the Intracoastal City traffic advisory area from northeast to southwest. N115AL departed Intracoastal City westbound. Radar data indicated that the angle between the flight paths was about 60 degrees. The pilot of N115AL reported that he had just leveled out at 700 feet agl when he saw N2773A to his right at a 'slightly' lower altitude and banked hard left. A witness and physical evidence indicated that the main rotor blades of N115AL struck the tail rotor of N2773A. N2773A was not observed to take evasive action. Subsequently, N2773A impacted the ground in an uncontrolled descent, and N115AL made a forced landing in a slough and sank. Prior to departure, the pilot of N115AL communicated his intentions on the local traffic advisory frequency. There were no radio communications from N2773A on the advisory frequency, and the operator of N2773A did not include the use of traffic advisory services as a company standard operating procedure in its operations manual.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The failure of both pilots to see and avoid each other's aircraft. Factors were the failure of the pilot of N2773A to use the available traffic advisory service and the failure of the operator of N2773A to make the use of traffic advisory services a company standard operating procedure.

Findings

Occurrence #1: MIDAIR COLLISION
Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

Findings

1. (F) TRAFFIC ADVISORY - NOT USED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) INSUFF STANDARDS/REQUIREMENTS, OPERATION/OPERATOR - COMPANY/OPERATOR MGMT
3. (C) VISUAL LOOKOUT - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (C) VISUAL LOOKOUT - INADEQUATE - PILOT OF OTHER AIRCRAFT

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	56
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane; Helicopter
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	11000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 10500 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 90 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 40 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Bell	Registration:	N2773A
Model/Series:	206L-1 206L-1	Engines:	1 Turbo Shaft
Operator:	HOUSTON HELICOPTERS INC.	Engine Manufacturer:	Allison
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand Air Taxi (135)	Engine Model/Series:	250-C28B
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:	ICY, 4 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots / , 330°
Temperature:	25° C	Visibility	7 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	ABBEVILLE, LA (OR3)	Destination:	EAST CAMERON, GM

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	GEORGIA R SNYDER	Adopted Date:	04/15/1999
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 pubinquiry@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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