



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	FALL RIVER, MA	Accident Number:	BFO93LA149
Date & Time:	09/02/1993, 0830 EDT	Registration:	N8447
Aircraft:	LACH BENSEN B-8M	Injuries:	1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

AS THE PILOT WAS FLARING TO LAND, THE ROTOR CONTROL ARM (CONTROL STICK) FAILED AT A LOCATION JUST ABOVE THE PILOT'S HEAD. THE GYROCOPTER THEN ROLLED OVER AND CRASHED. A METALLURGICAL EXAMINATION REVEALED THE CONTROL ARM HAD FAILED FROM FATIGUE. THE FATIGUE ORIGINATED WHERE THE CONTROL ARM HAD BEEN CHAFED BY A LOOSE CLAMP.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: FATIGUE FAILURE OF THE GYROCOPTER'S MAIN ROTOR CONTROL ARM. FACTORS RELATED TO THE ACCIDENT WERE: A LOOSE CLAMP ON THE ROTOR CONTROL ARM, DUE TO INADEQUATE MAINTENANCE OR INSPECTION, WHICH RESULTED IN CHAFING OF THE CONTROL ARM.

Findings

Occurrence #1: AIRFRAME/COMPONENT/SYSTEM FAILURE/MALFUNCTION
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

1. (F) MAINTENANCE, INSPECTION - INADEQUATE - COMPANY/OPERATOR MANAGEMENT
2. (F) ROTORCRAFT FLIGHT CONTROL - LOOSE
3. (F) ROTORCRAFT FLIGHT CONTROL - CHAFED
4. (C) ROTORCRAFT FLIGHT CONTROL - FATIGUE

Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: LANDING

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	76
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Gyroplane	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	617 hours (Total, all aircraft), 617 hours (Total, this make and model), 14 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	LACH	Registration:	N8447
Model/Series:	BENSEN B-8M BENSEN B-8	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	WALTER LACH	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	C-65
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

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:	/ , 60°
Temperature:	21 °C	Visibility	100 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Destination:		

Airport Information

Airport:	FALL RIVER MUNI (FLR)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	6	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	3950 ft / 150 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	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): JERRY JAMISON Adopted Date: 06/30/1994

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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