



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Factual Report

Location:	TRENTON, GA	Accident Number:	ATL99LA105
Date & Time:	07/02/1999, 0730 EDT	Registration:	N23590
Aircraft:	Bell 47	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

On July 2, 1999, at 0730 eastern daylight time, a Bell 47, N23590, collided with trees during a forced landing near Trenton, Georgia, following a loss of rotor rpm. The agricultural flight was operated by the pilot under the provisions of Title 14 CFR Part 137, and no flight plan was filed. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed at the time of the accident. The helicopter sustained substantial damage and the commercial pilot received minor injuries. The flight departed Trenton, Georgia, at an undetermined time.

The pilot was conducting an aerial application for agricultural purposes. According to the pilot, the helicopter experienced a decay in rotor rpm and he was unable to maintain flight. He executed an autorotation and collided with trees on the descent.

According to the FAA, the pilot attempted the autorotation with about a five knot tailwind. No mechanical deficiencies were reported by the pilot. A Pilot/Operator Aircraft Accident Report (Form 6120.1/2) was not submitted by the pilot.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	52, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	04/23/1999
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	8440 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2450 hours (Total, this make and model), 110 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Bell	Registration:	N23590
Model/Series:	47 47	Aircraft Category:	Helicopter
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Restricted	Serial Number:	3506
Landing Gear Type:	Skid	Seats:	3
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2950 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	10 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	VO-435-AIF
Registered Owner:	SOUTHERN HELICOPTER	Rated Power:	280 hp
Operator:	SOUTHERN HELICOPTER	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	CHA, 682 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	22 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0736 EDT	Direction from Accident Site:	235°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 2400 ft agl	Visibility	8 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	160°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	23° C / 19° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0000	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): PHILLIP POWELL

Additional Participating Persons: JIM PERRY

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/>.