



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Factual Report

---

<b>Location:</b>	CANTON, MS	<b>Accident Number:</b>	MIA00LA257
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	09/01/2000, 0935 CDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N53SP
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Bell 47G-3B-1	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Serious
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 137: Agricultural		

---

On September 1, 2000, about 0935 central daylight time, a Bell 47G-3B-1, N53SP, registered to an individual, crashed while on a Title 14 CFR Part 137 aerial application flight. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed at the time and no flight plan was filed. The helicopter received substantial damage and the commercial-rated pilot received serious injuries. The flight originated from the local area about 0900.

The pilot stated he had a wire strike which he believes led to an in-flight fire. The helicopter was subsequently landed standing upright. By this time the helicopter was engulfed in flames. He exited the helicopter and watched it burn.

## Pilot Information

---

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	31, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Helicopter	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	07/14/2000
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>		<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	2412 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1210 hours (Total, this make and model), 50 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 20 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Bell	Registration:	N53SP
Model/Series:	47G-3B-1 47G-3B-1	Aircraft Category:	Helicopter
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Restricted; Normal	Serial Number:	67-17111
Landing Gear Type:	Skid	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	05/05/2000, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2850 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	200 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	7792 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	VO-435-A1F
Registered Owner:	DANNY L. TURNER	Rated Power:	270 hp
Operator:	VALLEY AIR, INC.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	ZORG

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	JAN, 346 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	15 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0954 CDT	Direction from Accident Site:	180°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	Light and Variable /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	29° C / 21° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0900 CDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

## Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	In-Flight
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** JEFFREY L KENNEDY

**Additional Participating Persons:** DOUGLAS B SMYLY; JACKSON, MS

**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](mailto:pubinq@ntsb.gov), or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/>.