



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	DES MOINES, WA	Accident Number:	SEA90LA048
Date & Time:	03/01/1990, 1550 PST	Registration:	N4073G
Aircraft:	BELL BH-47G3B2	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE ENGINE BEGAN RUNNING ROUGH DURING CRUISE FLIGHT AND RPM DECREASED FROM 3200 TO 2800. THE PILOT WAS NOT ABLE TO REACH SHORE WITH THE AVAILABLE POWER AND DITCHED THE AIRCRAFT IN A SALTWATER BAY. HE WAS RECOVERED FROM THE WATER BY A PRIVATE BOAT. THE AIRCRAFT SANK IN 300 FT. DEEP WATER AND WAS NOT RECOVERED.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: PARTIAL LOSS OF ENGINE POWER, CAUSE UNDETERMINED. THE AIRCRAFT WAS NOT RECOVERED AND EXAMINATION OF THE ENGINE WAS NOT POSSIBLE.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER
Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

Findings

1. (C) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

Occurrence #3: DITCHING
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	42
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:	14900 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1600 hours (Total, this make and model), 40 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 12 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	BELL	Registration:	N4073G
Model/Series:	BH-47G3B2 BH-47G3B2	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	RICHARD H. BUTZ	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	VO-435
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:	SEA, 420 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	6 knots / , 290°
Temperature:	16° C	Visibility	40 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	AUBURN, WA (S50)	Destination:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	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):	PRENTISS E MANGUM	Adopted Date:	02/12/1993
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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