



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	BROOKNEAL, VA	Accident Number:	BFO90LA041
Date & Time:	05/01/1990, 1330 EDT	Registration:	N4034Z
Aircraft:	HILLER UH-12ET	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Analysis

AFTER RUNNING OUT OF FUEL, THE HELICOPTER WAS AUTOROTATED INTO A WOODED AREA, RESULTING IN SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE. THE PILOT STATED THAT LACK OF SUFFICIENT REST CONTRIBUTED TO FAILING TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE FUEL TANK COULD NOT BE COMPLETELY REFUELED BECAUSE THE AIRCRAFT WAS PARKED ON A SLOPE DURING REFUELING. HE ALSO STATED THAT FATIGUE MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO HIS DECISION TO TRY TO MAKE IT TO THE AIRPORT EVEN THOUGH HE KNEW HE WAS RUNNING OUT OF FUEL.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT'S IMPROPER PREFLIGHT AND IMPROPER IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION. PILOT FATIGUE WAS A RELATED FACTOR.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - NONMECHANICAL
Phase of Operation: CRUISE

Findings

1. REFUELING - INADEQUATE
 2. (C) AIRCRAFT PREFLIGHT - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
 3. (F) FATIGUE(LACK OF SLEEP) - PILOT IN COMMAND
 4. (C) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

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

Findings

5. (F) OBJECT - TREE(S)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	36
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Instrument Rating(s):	Helicopter
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Single-engine
Flight Time:	6245 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2174 hours (Total, this make and model), 5825 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 118 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	HILLER	Registration:	N4034Z
Model/Series:	UH-12ET UH-12ET	Engines:	1 Turbo Shaft
Operator:	SUMMIT HELICOPTERS, INC	Engine Manufacturer:	ALLISON
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	250-C20B
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	LYH, 938 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 12000 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	7 knots / , 220°
Temperature:	25°C	Visibility	8 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	MT LAUREL, VA	Destination:	BROOKNEAL, VA (OV4)

Airport Information

Airport:	BROOKNEAL/CAMPBELL COUNTY (OV4)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	24	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	3800 ft / 60 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): ALFRED W DICKINSON

Adopted Date: 09/04/1992

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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