



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

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<b>Location:</b>	LAS CRUCES, NM	<b>Accident Number:</b>	DEN90LA121
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	06/01/1990, 1815 MDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N436DS
<b>Aircraft:</b>	HUGHES 369HS	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	2 Serious
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter - Non-scheduled		

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## Analysis

AT APPROXIMATELY 50 FEET ALTITUDE, FOLLOWING PICKUP OF A PASSENGER FROM A REMOTE MOUNTAIN SITE, THE ENGINE LOST POWER. THE PILOT CONDUCTED AN AUTOROTATIVE LANDING ONTO THE SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN. ON LANDING, THE HELICOPTER ROLLED DOWN THE SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN AND CAME TO REST FACING UP SLOPE. THE PILOT AND PASSENGER SUSTAINED SERIOUS INJURIES AND WERE MEDICATED TO MEDICAL FACILITIES. THE HELICOPTER WAS SUBSTANTIALLY DAMAGED, AND THERE WAS NO FIRE.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: A LOSS OF POWER FOR AN UNKNOWN CAUSE. A FACTOR IN THE ACCIDENT WAS THE UNSUITABLE TERRAIN.

## Findings

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Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER  
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

### Findings

1. (C) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED
2. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - MOUNTAINOUS/HILLY

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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

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Occurrence #3: ROLL OVER  
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Airline Transport; Flight Instructor	<b>Age:</b>	45, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Unknown
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Helicopter	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane; Helicopter	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>		<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	Yes
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 1 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	01/02/1990
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>		<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	9900 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1200 hours (Total, this make and model), 9357 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 50 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 20 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	HUGHES	<b>Registration:</b>	N436DS
<b>Model/Series:</b>	369HS 369HS	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Helicopter
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	No
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>		<b>Serial Number:</b>	6304879
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Skid	<b>Seats:</b>	5
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	01/30/1990, 100 Hour	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	3000 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	37 Hours	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Turbo Shaft
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	3743 Hours	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	ALLISON
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	250-C20
<b>Registered Owner:</b>		<b>Rated Power:</b>	400 hp
<b>Operator:</b>	CHARLES BELLA	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	On-demand Air Taxi (135)
<b>Operator Does Business As:</b>		<b>Operator Designator Code:</b>	GRTA

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0000	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Visibility	50 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	10 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	270°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	-18°C / -18°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	EL PASO, TX (NONE)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0700 MDT	Type of Airspace:	

## Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	NORMAN F WIEMEYER	Report Date:	11/09/1992
Additional Participating Persons:			
Publish Date:			
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 <a href="mailto:pubinquiry@ntsb.gov">pubinquiry@ntsb.gov</a> , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/</a> .		

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The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).