



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	STRATHMORE, CA	Accident Number:	LAX89DVA03
Date & Time:	02/01/1989, 0941 PST	Registration:	N2918W
Aircraft:	BELL 47G-3B2	Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Analysis

DURING A HOVERING MANEUVER, AFTER THE HELICOPTER HAD JUST LIFTED OFF WITH AN EXTERNAL LOAD, A GUST OF WIND WAS ENCOUNTERED. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE EXTERNAL LOAD SWUNG & SNAGGED ON THE SERVICE TRUCK. THE HELICOPTER WAS THEN PULLED DOWN & IT COLLIDED WITH THE TRUCK. NO PREIMPACT MECHANICAL FAILURE OR MALFUNCTION WAS REPORTED. THE PLT SUFFERED BROKEN RIBS & A MINOR HEAD INJURY; A GROUND LOADING ASSISTANT RECEIVED MINOR INJURIES.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: IMPROPER COMPENSATION FOR WIND CONDITIONS BY THE PILOT, AND HIS FAILURE TO MAINTAIN CLEARANCE FROM THE SERVICE TRUCK. FACTORS RELATING TO THE ACCIDENT WERE: THE UNFAVORABLE (VARIABLE) AND GUSTY WIND CONDITIONS AND CLOSE PROXIMITY OF THE SERVICE VEHICLE.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: HOVER

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - UNFAVORABLE WIND
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - GUSTS
3. (C) COMPENSATION FOR WIND CONDITIONS - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (F) OBJECT - VEHICLE
5. (C) CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	58
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	16000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 9000 hours (Total, this make and model), 10 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	BELL	Registration:	N2918W
Model/Series:	47G-3B2 47G-3B2	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	AGRI-FLY SERVICES, INC.	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Operating Certificate(s) Held:		Engine Model/Series:	TVO-435-B1A
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Pilot
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	3 knots / , Variable
Temperature:	13° C	Visibility	5 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Destination:		

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	DONALD R MORRIS	Adopted Date:	01/22/1991
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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