



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	PORTALES, NM	Accident Number:	FTW83LA421
Date & Time:	09/01/1983, 1630 CDT	Registration:	N277SP
Aircraft:	HUGHES 500D	Injuries:	4 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Executive/Corporate		

Analysis

THE PLT LANDED AT PORTALES, NM WITH ABOUT 7 GAL OF JET FUEL REMAINING IN THE FUEL TANK. SINCE JET FUEL WAS NOT AVAILABLE, HE ADDED 15 GAL OF 100 LOW LEAD AVGAS, WHICH WAS AN APPROVED ALTERNATE FUEL. SHORTLY AFTER TAKING OFF, THE ENG FLAMED OUT & THE PLT WAS UNABLE TO OBTAIN A RESTART. DURING AN EMERGENCY LANDING, THE TAIL BOOM & MAIN ROTOR BLADES WERE DAMAGED. THE PLT STATED THAT THE START FUEL PUMP WAS IN THE 'ON' POSITION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FLT MANUAL & THAT THE AUTORELIGHT SYS WAS ARMED. THE ENG WAS DISASSEMBLED BUT NO CAUSE FOR THE FLAMEOUT WAS FOUND.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

Findings

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

Findings

1. (C) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

2. AUTOROTATION - PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND

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

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	30
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Instructor Rating(s):	
Flight Time:	1738 hours (Total, all aircraft), 351 hours (Total, this make and model), 1576 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 190 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	HUGHES	Registration:	N277SP
Model/Series:	500D 500D	Engines:	1 Turbo Shaft
Operator:	SOUTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE	Engine Manufacturer:	ALLISON
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	250-C20B
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Executive/Corporate		

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:	4 knots / , 20°
Temperature:	29° C	Visibility	25 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:		Destination:	CLOVIS, NM

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	3 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	A. V EDWARDS	Adopted 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 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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