



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Placerville, CA	Accident Number:	LAX01LA068
Date & Time:	01/01/2001, 1529 PST	Registration:	N94LW
Aircraft:	Wallace Rotorway EXEC 152	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

The student pilot finished building the helicopter and this was its first flight. He had received 11 hours of flight instruction and was endorsed for hover only solo. The pilot reported that he was 1-2 feet in the air and as he began backing the helicopter the tail rotor guard struck the ground, the main rotor struck the tail boom, and the left skid struck the ground. The skid collapsed and the helicopter rolled over. After exiting, the pilot attempted to right the helicopter, but fuel leaking from the fuel cap ignited when it contacted the exhaust. The helicopter was destroyed in the subsequent fire.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:
The failure of the student pilot to maintain adequate ground clearance while hovering.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: HOVER

Findings

1. TERRAIN CONDITION - OPEN FIELD
2. (C) ALTITUDE/CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) AIRCRAFT CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: ROLL OVER
Phase of Operation: HOVER

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	39
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	11 hours (Total, all aircraft), 11 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Wallace	Registration:	N94LW
Model/Series:	Rotorway EXEC 152	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	ANTHONY COLBERT	Engine Manufacturer:	Rotorway
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	RW-152
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	MHR	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Calm / ,
Temperature:	14° C	Visibility	7 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Placerville, CA (61Q)	Destination:	Placerville, CA

Airport Information

Airport:	Private	Runway Surface Type:	Dirt
Runway Used:		Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:			

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	FRANK H BAILY	Adopted Date:	11/06/2001
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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