



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

|                                |                      |                         |            |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| <b>Location:</b>               | Butte, MT            | <b>Accident Number:</b> | SEA02TA022 |
| <b>Date &amp; Time:</b>        | 01/03/2002, 1450 MST | <b>Registration:</b>    | N8393F     |
| <b>Aircraft:</b>               | Hughes 369D          | <b>Injuries:</b>        | 2 None     |
| <b>Flight Conducted Under:</b> | Public Aircraft      |                         |            |

## Analysis

While returning from a flight at about 600-800 feet above ground level, the engine lost power. The pilot autorotated the helicopter to a median between a highway. During the event, the tailboom was severed. Post accident inspection of the engine and subsequent engine test cell run did not find evidence of a mechanical failure or malfunction.

## Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: Loss of engine power for undetermined reasons.

## Findings

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

### Findings

1. (C) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED  
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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING  
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY DESCENT/LANDING

### Findings

2. AUTOROTATION - PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND  
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Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY DESCENT/LANDING

## Pilot Information

|                                  |   |                              |                      |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Certificate:</b>              | Commercial  | <b>Age:</b>                  | 46                   |
| <b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>       | Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea  | <b>Instrument Rating(s):</b> | Airplane; Helicopter |
| <b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b> | Helicopter  | <b>Instructor Rating(s):</b> | None                 |
| <b>Flight Time:</b>              | 10850 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1850 hours (Total, this make and model), 9063 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft) |                              |                      |

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

|                                       |  |                             |               |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Aircraft Make:</b>                 | Hughes                                       | <b>Registration:</b>        | N8393F        |
| <b>Model/Series:</b>                  | 369D   | <b>Engines:</b>             | 1 Turbo Shaft |
| <b>Operator:</b>                      | Montana State Dept. of Fish Wildlife & Parks | <b>Engine Manufacturer:</b> | Allison       |
| <b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b> | None   | <b>Engine Model/Series:</b> | 250-C20B      |
| <b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>        | Public Aircraft                              |                             |               |

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

|   |                        |                                     |                              |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>     | Instrument Conditions  | <b>Condition of Light:</b>          | Day                          |
| <b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b> | BTM, 5545 ft msl       | <b>Weather Information Source:</b>  | Weather Observation Facility |
| <b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>                  | Overcast / 1200 ft agl | <b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b> | 4 knots / , 354°             |
| <b>Temperature:</b>                     | -1° C                  | <b>Visibility</b>                   | 0.75 Miles                   |
| <b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>   |                        |                                     |                              |
| <b>Departure Point:</b>                 | Butte, MT (BTM)        | <b>Destination:</b>                 | Butte, MT (BTM)              |

## Wreckage and Impact Information

|                             |                        |                            |             |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Crew Injuries:</b>       | 2 None                 | <b>Aircraft Damage:</b>    | Substantial |
| <b>Passenger Injuries:</b>  | N/A                    | <b>Aircraft Fire:</b>      | None        |
| <b>Ground Injuries:</b>     | N/A                    | <b>Aircraft Explosion:</b> | None        |
| <b>Latitude, Longitude:</b> | 45.958056, -112.483333 |                            |             |

## Administrative Information

|                                      |  |                      |            |
|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------|------------|
| <b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b> | Debra J Eckrote  | <b>Adopted Date:</b> | 04/08/2003 |
| <b>Investigation Docket:</b>         | 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:pubinq@ntsb.gov">pubinq@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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