



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Blairstown, NJ	Accident Number:	NYC02LA090
Date & Time:	05/01/2002, 1430 EDT	Registration:	N37731
Aircraft:	Bell 47J-2A	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Other Work Use - Sightseeing		

Analysis

During the flare, the tail rotor blades struck a tire, which was used to mark off the helipad. The helicopter rotated to the right and began to climb. The pilot closed the throttle, and the helicopter touched down hard, coming to rest upright.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's improper flare, and his failure to maintain obstacle clearance which resulted in a tail strike.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

1. OBJECT - AIRPORT SIGN/MARKER
2. (C) FLARE - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

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

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	49
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Multi-engine Sea; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane; Helicopter
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	4900 hours (Total, all aircraft), 400 hours (Total, this make and model), 4000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Bell	Registration:	N37731
Model/Series:	47J-2A	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Sparta Rotors	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	VO-540
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Other Work Use - Sightseeing		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	ABE, 394 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	8 knots / , 290°
Temperature:	17° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Strousburg, PA (N53)	Destination:	Blairstown, NJ (1N7)

Airport Information

Airport:	Blairstown Airport (1N7)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Runway Used:		Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:			

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:	40.974167, -74.999722		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Stephen M Demko	Adopted Date:	06/25/2003
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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