



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	LOUISVILLE, KY	Accident Number:	ATL82DA258
Date & Time:	09/01/1982, 0820 CDT	Registration:	N8982F
Aircraft:	HUGHES 269C	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Minor, 1 None

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation -

Analysis

THE PILOT RECEIVED A WEATHER BRIEFING BEFORE TAKING OFF ON AN AERIAL TRAFFIC PATROL FOR A LOCAL RADIO STATION. HE WAS ISSUED A SPECIAL VFR CLEARANCE TO FOLLOW A PRE-ESTABLISHED ROUTE. HOWEVER, AFTER DEPARTING, HE ENCOUNTERED THUNDERSTORM ACTIVITY. HE RETURNED TO THE DEPARTURE AIRPORT AND HOVERED UNTIL THE THUNDERSTORM ACTIVITY SUBSIDED. AFTER ABOUT 30 MINUTES, THE PILOT DEPARTED AGAIN, BUT WAS UNABLE TO CONDUCT THE FLIGHT AS PLANNED. WITH THE WEATHER DETERIORATING, HE RECEIVED CLEARANCE TO ANOTHER AIRPORT. WHEN HE WAS ABOUT ONE MILE FROM THE AIRPORT, THE VISIBILITY WAS REPORT AS 1/2 MILE. HE REPORTED THAT WHEN HE WAS ABOUT 100 FT AGL, HE TURNED NORTHEAST INTO THE WIND TO GET CLOSE TO THE BOUNDARY ROAD AND FENCE AND TO GET VISUAL REFERENCES. ALSO, HE STATED THAT THE VISIBILITY THROUGH THE BUBBLE WAS DISTORTED BY THE HEAVY DOWNPOUR AND BUBBLE FOG. WHILE ATTEMPTING A HOVER LANDING, HE TOUCHED DOWN, TAIL LOW, MOVING REARWARD. THE REAR PART OF THE SKIDS AND THE TAIL ROTOR HIT THE GROUND AND CONTROL WAS LOST.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER
Phase of Operation: CRUISE

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - THUNDERSTORM
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - RAIN
3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - FOG
4. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - UNFAVORABLE WIND
5. (C) VFR FLIGHT INTO IMC - CONTINUED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

6. INITIATED - PILOT IN COMMAND
7. PRECAUTIONARY LANDING - PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
8. (F) WINDOW, FLIGHT COMPARTMENT WINDOW/WINDSHIELD - DIRTY (FOGGY)
9. PROPER ALIGNMENT - NOT POSSIBLE - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	50, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Unknown
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Balloon; Helicopter	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	Unknown Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	12/12/1981
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	7883 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2102 hours (Total, this make and model), 7476 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 342 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	HUGHES	Registration:	N8982F
Model/Series:	269C 269C	Aircraft Category:	Helicopter
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:		Serial Number:	0190
Landing Gear Type:	Ski/wheel	Seats:	3
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1670 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	14 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	6094 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	HIO-360-D1A
Registered Owner:	HELICOPTER INC.	Rated Power:	225 hp
Operator:	HELICOPTER INC.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0000	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 700 ft agl	Visibility	0 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 1200 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	17 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	20°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	71 °C / 0 °C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	LOUISVILLE, KY	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	VFR
Destination:	LOUISVILLE, KY	Type of Clearance:	Special VFR
Departure Time:	0650	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	STANDIFORD FIELD	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	0 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	19	IFR Approach:	
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Straight-in

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):		Report Date:	09/01/1983
Additional Participating Persons:			
Publish 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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The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).