



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Myrtle Grove, LA	Accident Number:	DFW05LA252
Date & Time:	09/01/2005, 1100 CDT	Registration:	N59539
Aircraft:	Bell 206B	Injuries:	4 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Analysis

The private pilot was flying three passengers for hire along the Mississippi River, to inspect and look for missing barges following Hurricane Katrina, when he experienced a loss of tail rotor control. At an altitude about 200 feet above ground level (agl), the helicopter took a sudden right turn and climbed approximately 100 feet before it started spinning in a clockwise direction and descended. The helicopter continued to spin until it impacted a barge and fell into the river about 300 feet from the riverbank. The pilot and passengers were able to egress the sinking helicopter and swam to shore unassisted. A review of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) airman records revealed the pilot held a private pilot certificate with ratings for airplane single-engine land and helicopter. Multiple attempts to obtain a completed Pilot/Operator Aircraft Accident Report (NTSB Form 6120.1/2) from the pilot were unsuccessful. As of January 23, 2006, the helicopter had not been located or recovered.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's loss of control in flight for undetermined reasons.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

1. (C) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

2. TERRAIN CONDITION - WATER

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	43
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Instructor Rating(s):	None

Flight Time:

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	Bell	Registration:	N59539
Model/Series:	206B	Engines:	1 Turbo Shaft
Operator:	On file	Engine Manufacturer:	Allison
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	250-C20
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	MSY, 4 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots, 90°
Temperature:	28° C / 25° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Luling, LA (LS97)	Destination:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Timothy J LeBaron	Adopted Date:	04/25/2006
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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