



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Factual Report

Location:	Pixley, CA	Accident Number:	LAX06CA002
Date & Time:	10/02/2005, 0900 PDT	Registration:	N201SC
Aircraft:	Bell 206B	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

On October 2, 2005, at 0900 Pacific daylight time, a Bell 206B, N201SC, impacted a wire and terrain during an aerial application flight near Pixley, California. The pilot, the sole occupant, sustained serious injuries, and the helicopter was substantially damaged. The helicopter was registered to, and operated by, Slykerman Ag Aviation, Inc., Bakersfield, California, under the provisions of 14 CFR Part 137 as an aerial application flight. Day visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and a flight plan had not been filed for the local flight that originated from the spray field about 40 minutes prior to the accident.

According to the pilot's written statement, he finished spraying the field and was respraying the borders on the west side of the field. He checked the wires on the southwest corner of the field for clearance, and elected to fly under the power lines to avoid drift onto the grapes to the south of the sprayed field. He flew to the south, checked the wires again, and came back around to start the spray run. Just as the helicopter neared the wires, the pilot noticed a guy-wire running from pole-to-pole under the power lines. The pilot lowered the collective in an attempt to miss the wire, but struck it with the topside of the vertical stabilizer. The helicopter then impacted the edge of a canal bank and rolled into the canal.

The pilot was wearing a helmet. He reported no anomalies with the helicopter or engine.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	61, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With Waivers/Limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	07/01/2005
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	05/01/2005
Flight Time:	21500 hours (Total, all aircraft), 750 hours (Total, this make and model), 326 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 71 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 9 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Bell	Registration:	N201SC
Model/Series:	206B	Aircraft Category:	Helicopter
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Restricted	Serial Number:	3427
Landing Gear Type:	Skid	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	05/01/2005, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Turbo Shaft
Airframe Total Time:	8256.9 Hours at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Allison
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	250-C20B
Registered Owner:	Slykerman Ag Aviation, Inc.	Rated Power:	420 hp
Operator:	Slykerman Ag Aviation, Inc.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:		Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:		Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	Light and Variable /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	24° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Pixley, CA	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0820	Type of Airspace:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	35.507222, -119.191944

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Nicole L Charnon
Additional Participating Persons:	Louis Brown; Federal Aviation Administration; Fresno, CA
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
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 pubinquiry@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .