



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final 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		

Analysis

The helicopter impacted a support wire between two poles while it was conducting aerial applications. The pilot completed spraying the field and was getting ready to spray the borders. He checked the power lines near the field and elected to fly beneath them to prevent drift over the adjacent field. As the pilot neared the wires for the spray run, he noticed a guy-wire running from pole-to-pole below the power lines. He lowered to collective, but the helicopter snagged the wire with the top portion of the vertical stabilizer. The helicopter then impacted terrain and rolled into a canal.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the pilot's failure to maintain clearance with the wire during a low altitude aerial application flight.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - AERIAL APPLICATION

Findings

1. OBJECT - WIRE,STATIC
2. (C) CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

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 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 Manufacturer:	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	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.	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:		Observation Time:	
Distance from Accident Site:		Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:		Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Temperature/Dew Point:	24° C
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Light and Variable	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:		Visibility (RVV):	
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		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Nicole L Charnon	Adopted Date:	02/28/2006
Additional Participating Persons:	Louis Brown; Federal Aviation Administration; Fresno, CA		
Publish Date:			
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 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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