



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Yuba City, CA	Accident Number:	LAX06LA134
Date & Time:	04/01/2006, 1303 PST	Registration:	N710WD
Aircraft:	Bell UH-1H	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Analysis

The helicopter collided with trees and the ground following an in-flight loss of control while conducting an aerial spraying operation. The pilot reported that the purpose of the flight was to spray a fungicide on several tree orchards in the area. After about 3 miles in flight he reached the orchard to be treated and slowed the helicopter. He initiated a descending left turn. During the turn the flight controls locked and the pilot thought the helicopter was experiencing a hydraulic failure. He maneuvered the helicopter to avoid power lines and attempted to regain control. He turned the hydraulic system off and manipulated the cyclic in an effort to obtain level flight. The helicopter impacted trees. A follow-up examination of the helicopter by Federal Aviation Administration inspectors and a technical representative from the helicopter's manufacturer revealed no mechanical malfunctions or failures that would have precluded normal operation of the helicopter in general and the hydraulic control system in particular.

Probable Cause

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

Findings

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

Findings

1. (C) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

2. (F) OBJECT - TREE(S)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	42
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	10500 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2000 hours (Total, this make and model), 10300 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 300 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 100 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	Bell	Registration:	N710WD
Model/Series:	UH-1H	Engines:	1 Turbo Shaft
Operator:	Avag, Inc.	Engine Manufacturer:	Honeywell
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:		Engine Model/Series:	T-53-LBB
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	MYV, 62 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 6000 ft agl
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	13 knots, 150°
Temperature:	14°C / 7°C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Yuba City, CA	Destination:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Zoë Keliher	Adopted Date:	04/25/2007
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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