



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Bullhead City, AZ	Accident Number:	LAX08CA057
Date & Time:	02/02/2008, 1900 MST	Registration:	N44NV
Aircraft:	Robinson R44 II	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that during the night flight, and prior to landing, he discovered that both landing lights were burned out. During the landing, the nose of the right skid contacted the ground and the helicopter bounced back into the air and rotated to the right resulting in the tail rotor striking a hangar. The helicopter rotated about 360 degrees before impacting the ground. The helicopter sustained substantial damage to the tail rotor gearbox attachment point. The pilot reported no other abnormalities with the helicopter prior to the accident.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's misjudged landing flare, inadequate bounced landing recovery, and failure to maintain directional control during a bounced landing that resulted in the tail rotor blades colliding with a hangar. Contributing to the accident was the burned out landing lights.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

1. (F) LANDING LIGHT(S) - FAILURE
 2. (C) FLARE - MISJUDGED - PILOT IN COMMAND
 3. (C) RECOVERY FROM BOUNCED LANDING - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
 4. (C) DIRECTIONAL CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

5. OBJECT - BUILDING(NONRESIDENTIAL)

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	76, 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):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With Waivers/Limitations	Last Medical Exam:	05/01/2007
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	8041 hours (Total, all aircraft), 262 hours (Total, this make and model), 7815 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 31 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 13 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	Robinson	Registration:	N44NV
Model/Series:	R44 II	Aircraft Category:	Helicopter
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	11800
Landing Gear Type:	Skid	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	06/01/2007, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	56 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	56 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	IO-540-AE1A5
Registered Owner:	Laughlin Aviation, LLC	Rated Power:	300 hp
Operator:	Laughlin Aviation, LLC	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	EED, 983 ft msl	Observation Time:	1856 PST
Distance from Accident Site:	24 Nautical Miles	Condition of Light:	Night
Direction from Accident Site:	180°	Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Temperature/Dew Point:	9°C / 0°C
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots, 240°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	29.99 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Henderson, NV (HND)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	BULLHEAD CITY, AZ (IFP)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1815 PST	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	LAUGHLIN/BULLHEAD INTERNATIONAL (IFP)	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	695 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	NA	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Full Stop

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Patrick H Jones	Adopted Date:	03/31/2008
Additional Participating Persons:	James Beutel; Federal Aviation Administration; Las Vegas, NV		
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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