



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Bullhead City, AZ	Accident Number:	LAX08CA057
Date & Time:	02/02/2008, 1900 MST	Registration:	N44NV
Aircraft:	Robinson R44 II	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

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)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	76
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:	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	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Laughlin Aviation, LLC	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	IO-540-AE1A5
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	EED, 983 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Night	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots, 240°
Temperature:	9° C / 0° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Henderson, NV (HND)	Destination:	BULLHEAD CITY, AZ (IFP)

Airport Information

Airport:	LAUGHLIN/BULLHEAD INTERNATIONAL (IFP)	Runway Surface Type:	
Runway Used:	NA	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Length/Width:			

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Patrick H Jones	Adopted Date:	03/31/2008
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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