



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Lexington, KY	Accident Number:	ERA09CA156
Date & Time:	02/01/2009, 1850 EST	Registration:	N2620C
Aircraft:	ROBINSON HELICOPTER R22 BETA	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot of the Robinson R-22 stated that he was preparing for takeoff in the center of a non-movement area. Upon advancing the throttle to 100%, the helicopter began to spin rapidly to the left while still on the ground. The pilot attempted to completely lower the collective lever while reducing throttle to stop the rotation, but felt no noticeable effect. He then pulled the mixture control knob to stop the engine, coming to rest at the edge of a non-movement area. As the helicopter spun, it drifted until the tailboom contacted a snow bank incurring substantial damage. The pilot stated that he was wearing a heavy coat and boots at the time of the accident, which may have interfered with his ability to operate the collective and anti-torque pedal controls.

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 control of the helicopter during takeoff. Contributing to this accident was the interference of the flight controls by the heavy coat and boots the pilot was wearing.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Access to equipment/controls - Ability to respond/compensate (Factor)

Factual Information

History of Flight

Standing-engine(s) start-up Loss of control on ground (Defining event)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	51, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Without Waivers/Limitations	Last Medical Exam:	06/26/2007
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	08/29/2008
Flight Time:	98 hours (Total, all aircraft), 63 hours (Total, this make and model), 36 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	ROBINSON HELICOPTER	Registration:	N2620C
Model/Series:	R22 BETA	Aircraft Category:	Helicopter
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	0725
Landing Gear Type:	Skid	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	10/29/2008, 100 Hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1350 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	7905 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	O-320 SERIES
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	180 hp
Operator:	On file	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	KLEX, 979 ft msl	Observation Time:	1854 EDT
Distance from Accident Site:		Condition of Light:	Night
Direction from Accident Site:		Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Temperature/Dew Point:	7°C / -1°C
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	8 knots, 210°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	29.93 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Lexington, KY (LEX)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Georgetown, KY (27K)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	EST	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Blue Grass Airport (LEX)	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	979 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	N/A	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	None

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
Total Injuries:	1 None		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Jose Obregon	Adopted Date:	05/12/2009
Additional Participating Persons:	Charles B Holsclaw; FAA/FSDO; Louisville, KY		
Publish Date:	05/12/2009		
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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