



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Deer Isle, ME	Accident Number:	ERA09LA436
Date & Time:	08/01/2009, 1656 EDT	Registration:	M-BOAT
Aircraft:	EUROCOPTER EC130	Injuries:	4 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The helicopter departed a private yacht and was flying along an island shoreline at approximately 400 feet above mean sea level when the pilot entered an out-of-ground effect hover and initiated a left-pedal turn. The helicopter started turning faster than commanded, and the pilot was unable to regain control. The helicopter subsequently lost altitude and impacted the water. Prior to impacting the water, the pilot deployed the emergency skid-mounted floats to prevent sinking. According to the pilot, "the accident was totally pilot error with no mechanical malfunction." Examination of the wreckage confirmed no evidence of any mechanical malfunction or failure.

Flight Events

Maneuvering-hover - Loss of control in flight

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's loss of directional control during an out-of-ground-effect hover.

Findings

Personnel issues-Task performance-(general)-(general)-Pilot - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	66
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	1180 hours (Total, all aircraft), 55 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	EUROCOPTER	Registration:	M-BOAT
Model/Series:	EC130 B4	Engines:	1 Turbo Shaft
Operator:	Highland Helicopter (Isle of Man) Limited	Engine Manufacturer:	TURBOMECA
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	ARRIEL2
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	rkd, 56 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	7 knots, 170°
Temperature:	24° C / 19° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Deer Island, ME	Destination:	Deer Island, ME

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	3 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Shawn Etcher	Adopted Date:	08/12/2010
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=74426		

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

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