



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

<b>Location:</b>	Arapahoe, NE	<b>Accident Number:</b>	CEN09LA558
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	09/02/2009, 1040 CDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N58163
<b>Aircraft:</b>	HUGHES 269C	<b>Injuries:</b>	2 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

During cruise flight in a reciprocating single-engine helicopter, the pilot heard a loud noise and felt a vibration. The pilot immediately entered an autorotation and turned the flight controls over to the flight instructor. The flight instructor elected to continue the autorotation to an open field. During the landing the helicopter's landing skids stuck into the soft terrain, causing the helicopter's nose to pitch down and tail to pitch up. The main rotor blades impacted the tail boom, severing it; the helicopter subsequently rolled onto its side. An examination of the helicopter failed to find a reason for the noise and vibration.

## Flight Events

Enroute-cruise - Unknown or undetermined  
Autorotation - Off-field or emergency landing  
Post-impact - Roll over

## Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:  
A sudden vibration for undetermined reasons.

## Findings

Not determined-Not determined-(general)-(general)-Unknown/Not determined - C

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	55
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Helicopter	<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Flight Time:</b>	595 hours (Total, all aircraft), 595 hours (Total, this make and model), 534 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 11 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 8 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Flight Instructor Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	25
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine Land	<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Helicopter
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Helicopter	<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	Helicopter; Instrument Helicopter
<b>Flight Time:</b>			

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Manufacturer:</b>	HUGHES	<b>Registration:</b>	N58163
<b>Model/Series:</b>	269C	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Operator:</b>	CAVALEA CONTINENTAL FREIGHT INC	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>Air Carrier Operating Certificate:</b>	None	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	I0360 SER
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>		<b>Weather Information Source:</b>	Pilot
<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual Conditions	<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Obscured / 1200 ft agl
<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day	<b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>	14 knots, 150°
<b>Temperature:</b>	21° C	<b>Visibility</b>	7 Miles
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	In the Vicinity - Patches - Fog		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Arapahoe, NE (37V)	<b>Destination:</b>	Colorado Plains, CO (AKO)

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	2 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Craig Hatch	<b>Adopted Date:</b>	04/22/2010
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=74651">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=74651</a>		

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The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report.