



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Tipton, CA	Accident Number:	WPR10CA094
Date & Time:	01/01/2010, 1142 PST	Registration:	N440NR
Aircraft:	HILLER UH-12E	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Controlled flight into terr/obj (CFIT)	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Analysis

While maneuvering at low level over a field during an aerial application flight, the helicopter pilot took his hand off the collective to adjust the sun visor because the sun was in his eyes. The pilot reported that he had used his leg to block the collective from moving as he adjusted the visor. The helicopter hit mild turbulence and bumped his leg away from the collective. The collective slipped down, and the helicopter impacted the ground and rolled over on its side. The helicopter sustained substantial damage to the tailboom and cockpit. The pilot stated that there were no mechanical failures or malfunctions with the helicopter's flight control system or engine 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 failure to maintain clearance from terrain.

Findings

Personnel issues	Task monitoring/vigilance - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Terrain - Response/compensation (Cause)

Factual Information

History of Flight

Maneuvering	Controlled flight into terr/obj (CFIT) (Defining event)
-------------	---

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	35, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Center
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 2 Without Waivers/Limitations	Last Medical Exam:	05/05/2009
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	11/19/2009
Flight Time:	14000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 5000 hours (Total, this make and model), 350 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 120 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	HILLER	Registration:	N440NR
Model/Series:	UH-12E	Aircraft Category:	Helicopter
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Restricted	Serial Number:	2275
Landing Gear Type:	High Skid	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	12/23/2009, 100 Hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3200 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	7360 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	VO-540 SERIES
Registered Owner:	Costa Spraying Inc	Rated Power:	310 hp
Operator:	Costa Spraying Inc	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	VIS, 295 ft msl	Observation Time:	1155 PST
Distance from Accident Site:	16 Nautical Miles	Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:	340°	Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Temperature/Dew Point:	11°C / 8°C
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility	3 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	3 knots, 350°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	30.31 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Tipton, CA	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Tipton, CA	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	PST	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Visalia Municipal Airport (VIS)	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	N/A	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Patrick H Jones	Adopted Date:	05/06/2010
Additional Participating Persons:	Doug Kredit; Federal Aviation Administration; Fresno, CA		
Publish Date:	05/06/2010		
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=75219		

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.

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.