



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Tipton, CA	Accident Number:	WPR10CA094
Date & Time:	01/01/2010, 1142 PST	Registration:	N440NR
Aircraft:	HILLER UH-12E	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.

Flight Events

Maneuvering - Controlled flight into terr/obj (CFIT)

Probable Cause

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-Psychological-Attention/monitoring-Task monitoring/vigilance-Pilot - C
Environmental issues-Physical environment-Terrain-(general)-Response/compensation - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	35
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Instructor Rating(s):	None
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	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Costa Spraying Inc	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:		Engine Model/Series:	VO-540 SERIES
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	VIS, 295 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Unknown
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	3 knots, 350°
Temperature:	11°C / 8°C	Visibility	3 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Tipton, CA	Destination:	Tipton, CA

Airport Information

Airport:	Visalia Municipal Airport (VIS)	Runway Surface Type:	
Runway Used:	N/A	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Length/Width:			

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Patrick H Jones	Adopted 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		

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