



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Los Banos, CA	Accident Number:	WPR10LA127
Date & Time:	02/02/2010, 1320 PST	Registration:	N36MV
Aircraft:	HILLER UH-12E	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Analysis

The pilot of the helicopter had just completed an aerial application flight and was returning to land. As he approached the landing area, he began to apply power, but the engine did not respond. He continued to twist the throttle, but it felt loose with no resistance and the engine speed did not change. He aborted the landing approach and performed a run-on landing in a field; during the approach the engine speed began to decrease and the helicopter landed hard, causing substantial damage to the tail boom and lower fuselage. Postaccident examination revealed that the throttle control attach fitting located in the aft section of the collective control had become separated. The nuts and bolts attaching the fitting were not located. The lack of witness marks on the throttle fitting indicates that either the attachment bolt failed or rapidly unscrewed from its associated nut. The disconnection resulted in a loss of engine control and subsequent partial loss of engine power. The last annual inspection occurred 11 months and 250 flight hours prior to the accident.

Flight Events

Approach-VFR pattern final - Powerplant sys/comp malf/fail
Emergency descent - Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:
A partial loss of engine power due to a failure of the throttle interconnect hardware, which resulted in a hard landing.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft power plant-Engine controls-Power lever-Failure - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	54
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Single-engine
Flight Time:	18500 hours (Total, all aircraft), 7000 hours (Total, this make and model), 18500 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	HILLER	Registration:	N36MV
Model/Series:	UH-12E	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	JEFF STREETER MOTOR SPORTS 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:	MCE, 155 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:	Calm
Temperature:	11°C / 9°C	Visibility	3 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	Mist		
Departure Point:	Los Banos, CA	Destination:	Los Banos, CA

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Elliott Simpson	Adopted Date:	10/21/2010
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=75334		

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