



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Glenwood Springs, CO	Accident Number:	CEN11CA213
Date & Time:	03/01/2011, 1040 MST	Registration:	N74816
Aircraft:	ROBINSON HELICOPTER COMPANY R44 II	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot refueled his helicopter and was performing a takeoff from an area near the airport's fuel pumps. As the helicopter began to lift, the pilot allowed the helicopter's tail to remain in a low attitude. As a result, the aft end of the left skid contacted the ground and the helicopter experienced a dynamic rollover. The helicopter came to rest on its left side, resulting in substantial damage to the fuselage and tail boom. The pilot reported that there were no pre-impact mechanical malfunctions or failures that would have precluded normal operation.

Flight Events

Takeoff - Dragged wing/rotor/float/other
Takeoff - Dynamic rollover

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's improper takeoff procedure, which resulted in a dynamic rollover when the left skid contacted the ground.

Findings

Personnel issues-Task performance-Use of equip/info-Aircraft control-Pilot - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	51
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	134 hours (Total, all aircraft), 18 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	ROBINSON HELICOPTER COMPANY	Registration:	N74816
Model/Series:	R44 II	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	244 Charlie Delta LLC	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	IO-540
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:		Weather Information Source:	Pilot
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Light and Variable, Variable
Temperature:	5° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Glenwood Springs, CO (GWS)	Destination:	Carbondale, CO

Airport Information

Airport:	Glenwood Springs Municipal (GWS)	Runway Surface Type:	
Runway Used:	N/A	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Length/Width:			

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):	Timothy LeBaron	Adopted Date:	07/21/2011
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=78499		

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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