



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Yancey, TX	Accident Number:	CEN11LA318
Date & Time:	05/03/2011, 1115 CDT	Registration:	N927SH
Aircraft:	ROBINSON HELICOPTER R22 BETA	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Aerial Observation		

Analysis

While maneuvering at a low altitude, the pilot heard the engine noise change and the low rpm warning horn sound. The helicopter settled to the ground and rolled onto its right side. While exiting the helicopter the pilot noted that the fuel shutoff valve had been moved 3/4 of the way towards the closed position. The pilot concluded that either the passenger's clothing or seat belt had inadvertently closed the fuel valve when the passenger had moved near the valve which resulted in the loss of engine power. Due to the low altitude, the pilot was unable to perform an autorotation in time. A postaccident examination of the helicopter did not reveal any preimpact anomalies. The helicopter was equipped with an older style fuel shutoff valve that had a handle that could be easily moved; however, a newer spring-loaded fuel shutoff valve was available that would have prevented inadvertent valve actuation.

Flight Events

Maneuvering-low-alt flying - Fuel related
Maneuvering-low-alt flying - Loss of engine power (total)
Maneuvering-low-alt flying - Loss of lift
Uncontrolled descent - Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
Post-impact - Roll over

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:
The loss of engine power due to the unintentional closure of the fuel shutoff valve.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft systems-Fuel system-Fuel selector/shutoff valve-Unintentional use/operation - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	37
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	8667 hours (Total, all aircraft), 8265 hours (Total, this make and model), 8667 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 184 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 47 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	ROBINSON HELICOPTER	Registration:	N927SH
Model/Series:	R22 BETA	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	PRENTICE AVIATION INC	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:		Engine Model/Series:	O-360 SERIES
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Aerial Observation		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	KHDO, 930 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:	13 knots/ 20 knots, 50°
Temperature:	20° C / -1° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Yancey, TX	Destination:	Yancey, TX

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Jason T Aguilera	Adopted Date:	11/17/2011
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=79031		

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