



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

<b>Location:</b>	New Columbia, IL	<b>Accident Number:</b>	CEN11LA317
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	05/03/2011, 1830 CDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N38096
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Texas Helicopter Corporation OH-13E/M74	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 137: Agricultural		

## Analysis

The aerial-application helicopter was operating from an uncultivated area of the wheat field being sprayed. The pilot stated that, shortly after takeoff, while accelerating through translational lift, the helicopter encountered a momentary loss of lift, consistent with an encounter with a wind gust, and settled into the wheat crop. The helicopter pitched down suddenly as the spray booms made contact with the crop and subsequently collided with terrain. The pilot reported that there were no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures that would have precluded normal operation of the helicopter.

## Flight Events

Takeoff - Collision during takeoff/land

## Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to maintain adequate clearance from the wheat crop during takeoff.

## Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-Altitude-Not attained/maintained - C

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

Environmental issues-Physical environment-Terrain-(general)-Contributed to outcome

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Flight Instructor; Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	64
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine Land	<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Helicopter	<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	Helicopter
<b>Flight Time:</b>	15399 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2384 hours (Total, this make and model), 14933 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 12 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 12 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Manufacturer:</b>	Texas Helicopter Corporation	<b>Registration:</b>	N38096
<b>Model/Series:</b>	OH-13E/M74	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Operator:</b>	Hendrickson Flying Service, Inc.	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Lycoming
<b>Air Carrier Operating Certificate:</b>		<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	VO-435-A1C
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 137: Agricultural		

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	M30, 410 ft msl	<b>Weather Information Source:</b>	Weather Observation Facility
<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual Conditions	<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None
<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day	<b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>	6 knots, 320°
<b>Temperature:</b>	16°C / 1°C	<b>Visibility</b>	10 Miles
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	New Columbia, IL	<b>Destination:</b>	New Columbia, IL

## Wreckage and Impact Information

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

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Andrew T Fox	<b>Adopted Date:</b>	01/17/2012
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=79026">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=79026</a>		

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