



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Joice, IA	Accident Number:	CEN11CA535
Date & Time:	08/01/2011, 0930 CDT	Registration:	N51857
Aircraft:	TEXAS HELICOPTER CORP OH-13H/M74A	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Analysis

The pilot reported that during an aerial application flight, he was paralleling a highway as he was applying chemical to a cornfield. He gained altitude to clear a homestead and then descended into the field to continue spraying. He reported that the helicopter impacted an unmarked wire that was strung diagonally between the road he was paralleling and the corner of the property. The helicopter impacted the field and the main rotor blades separated from the airframe, causing the helicopter to cartwheel prior coming to a stop. The helicopter sustained substantial damage to the main rotor blades and fuselage. The pilot reported that there was no mechanical malfunction or failure of the helicopter prior to the wire strike.

Flight Events

Maneuvering-low-alt flying - Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
Uncontrolled descent - Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
Maneuvering-low-alt flying - Low altitude operation/event

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 the wire.

Findings

Personnel issues-Action/decision-Action-Incorrect action performance-Pilot - C
Personnel issues-Psychological-Attention/monitoring-Monitoring environment-Pilot - C
Environmental issues-Physical environment-Object/animal/substance-Wire-Contributed to outcome

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	25
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Helicopter
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	1840 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1400 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	TEXAS HELICOPTER CORP	Registration:	N51857
Model/Series:	OH-13H/M74A	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	SCOTTS HELICOPTER SERVICE INC	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:		Engine Model/Series:	VO-435-AIF
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:		Weather Information Source:	Unknown
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	6 knots, 180°
Temperature:		Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Joice, IA	Destination:	Joice, IA

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):	James P Silliman	Adopted Date:	10/17/2011
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=81329		

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