



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Coolidge, AZ	Accident Number:	WPR12LA107
Date & Time:	03/01/2012, 1220 MST	Registration:	N197LE
Aircraft:	BELL AH-1F	Injuries:	2 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Analysis

The pilot reported that he was conducting flybys to film a segment for a documentary. During his last run, he initiated a 150- to 180-degree climbing right turn to about 200 ft above the ground. After the turn, he attempted to neutralize the flight controls in preparation for a normal approach to land, but he was unable to move them. The helicopter remained in the same turn rate with the same collective pitch and cyclic input until ground impact. A postaccident examination of the helicopter revealed no evidence of preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures that would have precluded normal operation. The reason for the flight control malfunction could not be determined.

Flight Events

Maneuvering - Flight control sys malf/fail

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: A flight control malfunction while maneuvering for reasons that could not be determined because postaccident examination revealed no evidence of a mechanical malfunction or failure that would have precluded normal operation.

Findings

Not determined-Not determined-(general)-(general)-Unknown/Not determined - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	63
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Instrument Rating(s):	Helicopter
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	BELL	Registration:	N197LE
Model/Series:	AH-1F	Engines:	1 Turbo Shaft
Operator:	On file	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	T53L-703
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	CGZ, 1464 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:	7 knots, 200°
Temperature:	18° C / -4° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Coolidge, AZ (P08)	Destination:	Coolidge, AZ (P08)

Airport Information

Airport:	Coolidge Municipal Airport (P08)	Runway Surface Type:	
Runway Used:	N/A	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Length/Width:			

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Tealeye Cornejo	Adopted Date:	07/13/2015
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=82915		

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