



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

<b>Location:</b>	Eufaula, AL	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ERA12CA199
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	03/01/2012, 1200 CST	<b>Registration:</b>	N38FA
<b>Aircraft:</b>	BELL OH-58A	<b>Injuries:</b>	2 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

## Analysis

The pilot reported that he was conducting annual refresher training with a certified flight instructor. During a practice autorotation to runway 18, the helicopter descended below a nearby tree line and then suddenly dropped. He stated that the helicopter descended so rapidly that he was unable to arrest the descent rate and the helicopter landed hard. The pilot reported that the wind was from 230 degrees at 10 knots with gusts to 19 knots at the time of the accident. He reported that, as the helicopter descended below treetop level, "...we lost all lift and wind advantage." The hard landing resulted in a fractured tail boom. The pilots reported no mechanical malfunctions or failures that would have precluded normal operation.

## Flight Events

Autorotation - Hard landing

## Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's inadequate compensation for the gusting wind, which resulted in an excessive descent rate and hard landing.

## Findings

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

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

Environmental issues-Conditions/weather/phenomena-Wind-Gusts-Response/compensation - C

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Flight Instructor; Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	65
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine Land	<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Helicopter	<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	Airplane Single-engine
<b>Flight Time:</b>	23155 hours (Total, all aircraft), 14000 hours (Total, this make and model), 22000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

## Flight Instructor Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Airline Transport; Flight Instructor	<b>Age:</b>	56
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane; Helicopter
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Helicopter	<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine; Helicopter; Instrument Airplane; Instrument Helicopter
<b>Flight Time:</b>	25000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 8000 hours (Total, this make and model), 24950 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 240 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 80 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 0 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Manufacturer:</b>	BELL	<b>Registration:</b>	N38FA
<b>Model/Series:</b>	OH-58A	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Turbo Shaft
<b>Operator:</b>	B & S AIR INC	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Rolls Royce
<b>Air Carrier Operating Certificate:</b>		<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	T63-A720
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	EUf, 285 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>	7 knots/ 15 knots, 270°
<b>Temperature:</b>	24° C / 17° C	<b>Visibility:</b>	10 Miles
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Eufaula, AL (EUf)	<b>Destination:</b>	Eufaula, AL (EUf)

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	Weedon Field Airport (EUf)	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Asphalt
<b>Runway Used:</b>	18	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	5000 ft / 100 ft		

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	2 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

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Ralph E Hicks	Adopted Date:	07/18/2012
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
Investigation Docket:	<a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=83005">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=83005</a>		

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