



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Rockport, WA	Accident Number:	WPR13LA003
Date & Time:	10/03/2012, 1340 PDT	Registration:	N80140
Aircraft:	ROBINSON HELICOPTER R22 BETA	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Analysis

The pilot reported that while maneuvering, the helicopter’s clutch caution light illuminated. The pilot initiated a precautionary descent and began to slow the helicopter in an effort to locate a clearing in the trees. The clutch caution light was still on after 10 to 12 seconds, so the pilot instructed his passenger to pull the circuit breaker. The pilot spotted a clearing, and shortly thereafter the low rotor rpm warning light illuminated and the horn sounded. The pilot lowered the collective and headed for a landing spot. About 20 to 30 feet above ground level, the pilot flared the helicopter and used the remaining collective control input the last 3 to 5 feet. The helicopter subsequently landed hard in high brush surrounded by tall trees.

During the postaccident examination, bench testing of the clutch actuator revealed that the actuator operated normally and within specified limitations. Further examination of the actuator motor found no anomalies that would have precluded normal operation. The reason for the illumination of the clutch light could not be determined.

Flight Events

Maneuvering - Miscellaneous/other
Landing-flare/touchdown - Hard landing

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to maintain sufficient rotor rpm during a precautionary landing, which resulted in a hard landing.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-Airspeed-Not attained/maintained - C
Personnel issues-Task performance-Use of equip/info-Aircraft control-Pilot - C
Environmental issues-Physical environment-Object/animal/substance-Tree(s)-Not specified

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	39
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	646 hours (Total, all aircraft), 198 hours (Total, this make and model), 553 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 20 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 8 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 0 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	ROBINSON HELICOPTER	Registration:	N80140
Model/Series:	R22 BETA	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Glacier Aviation, Inc.	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-320 SERIES
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	BVS, 144 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Pilot
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	9 knots, 300°
Temperature:	18°C / 1°C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration		
Departure Point:	Burlington, WA (KBVS)	Destination:	Burlington, WA (KBVS)

Airport Information

Airport:	Skagit Regional Airport (BVS)	Runway Surface Type:	
Runway Used:	N/A	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Length/Width:			

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):	Andrew L Swick	Adopted Date:	09/12/2013
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=85254		

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