



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Menard, TX	Accident Number:	CEN13CA124
Date & Time:	01/02/2013, 1745 CST	Registration:	N744RM
Aircraft:	ROBINSON HELICOPTER COMPANY R44 II	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

As the helicopter was flying west in the direction of the sun and at 250 feet above ground level, the pilot heard a loud "bang" and observed a black object go by the left side of the helicopter. The object struck the passenger-side windshield. The pilot performed a forced landing to a highway. During the forced landing, both landing skids separated and the helicopter slid to a stop. The lower fuselage was buckled and wrinkled in several locations. The pilot reported no preaccident mechanical malfunctions or failures with the helicopter that would have precluded normal operation.

Flight Events

Enroute-cruise - Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Emergency descent - Off-field or emergency landing

Landing-flare/touchdown - Hard landing

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:
The helicopter landed hard during a forced landing.

Findings

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

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

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

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Private	Age:	58
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	6015 hours (Total, all aircraft), 121 hours (Total, this make and model), 6015 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	ROBINSON HELICOPTER COMPANY	Registration:	N744RM
Model/Series:	R44 II	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	On file	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	IO-540-AE1A5
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	KJCT, 1754 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Dusk	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots, 7°
Temperature:	7°C / -5°C	Visibility	8 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Menard, TX	Destination:	Menard, TX

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):	Jennifer Rodi	Adopted Date:	04/03/2013
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=85955		

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