



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Hamilton, MT	Accident Number:	WPR13CA253
Date & Time:	05/01/2013, 0830 MDT	Registration:	N322MH
Aircraft:	SCHWEIZER 300C	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

The flight instructor reported that during an instructional flight, the helicopter was 500 feet above ground level when he rolled the throttle off with the intent for the student to respond by initiating a straight-in autorotation. The student pilot did not respond properly, so the instructor took the controls to initiate a power recovery. The helicopter subsequently landed hard, deforming both skids and substantially damaging the airframe. The pilot did not report any preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures with the helicopter that would have precluded normal operation.

Flight Events

Maneuvering - Simulated/training event
Autorotation - Attempted remediation/recovery
Landing-flare/touchdown - Hard landing

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:
The student pilot's failure to maintain helicopter control during a practice autorotation and the flight instructor's delayed remedial action.

Findings

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

Personnel issues-Action/decision-Action-Delayed action-Instructor/check pilot - C

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

Flight Instructor Information

Certificate:	Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	45
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine; Helicopter; Instrument Airplane
Flight Time:	9517 hours (Total, all aircraft), 181 hours (Total, this make and model), 9336 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 245 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 93 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Student Pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	46
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	29 hours (Total, all aircraft), 29 hours (Total, this make and model), 19 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	SCHWEIZER	Registration:	N322MH
Model/Series:	300C	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Choice Aviation, LLC	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	HIO-360-01A
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	6S5	Weather Information Source:	Pilot
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Calm
Temperature:	-2 °C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration		
Departure Point:	Hamilton, MT (6S5)	Destination:	Hamilton, MT (6S5)

Airport Information

Airport:	Ravalli County Airport (6S5)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	34	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	4200 ft / 75 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	John W DeLisi	Adopted Date:	07/29/2013
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=87040		

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agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

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