



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Honolulu, HI	Accident Number:	WPR14CA325
Date & Time:	08/01/2014, 1500 HST	Registration:	N110JC
Aircraft:	ROBINSON HELICOPTER COMPANY R44 II	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of tail rotor effectiveness	Injuries:	3 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that while air-taxiing east about 15 feet above ground level (agl) to parking with adjoining buildings on both sides, which were known for buffeting winds that made it difficult to control the helicopter's yaw, he encountered a strong gust of wind. The helicopter abruptly yawed to the right and he input left pedal control which did not correct the right yaw. The helicopter continued rotating to the right at an increasing speed; full left pedal had no effect. The pilot stated that the helicopter subsequently completed several 360-degree turns to the right, which rendered it completely uncontrollable; he abruptly lowered the collective from about 8 to 10 feet agl to get the helicopter on the ground. During the descent the helicopter's left skid impacted the center of the taxiway, slid toward a fuel truck, and came to rest on its right side. The main rotor blade impacted a fuel truck's windshield. The helicopter sustained substantial damage to the tail boom and the upper and lower cabin/cockpit structure. The pilot reported no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures with the helicopter that would have precluded normal operation.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's inadequate compensation for the wind conditions and failure to maintain aircraft control during taxi, which resulted in a loss of tail rotor effectiveness and subsequent impact with the taxiway and a parked fuel truck.

Findings

Aircraft	Prop/rotor parameters - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Tailwind - Response/compensation (Cause) Ground vehicle - Contributed to outcome

Factual Information

History of Flight

Taxi	Loss of tail rotor effectiveness (Defining event) Loss of control in flight
Uncontrolled descent	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	75
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Without Waivers/Limitations	Last Medical Exam:	08/30/2013
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	2088 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1500 hours (Total, this make and model), 16 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	ROBINSON HELICOPTER COMPANY	Registration:	N110JC
Model/Series:	R44 II II	Aircraft Category:	Helicopter
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	13346
Landing Gear Type:	Skid;	Seats:	
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	08/07/2013, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	77 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	375 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO-540-AE1A5
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	205 hp
Operator:	On file	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	HNL, 13 ft msl	Observation Time:	1453 HST
Distance from Accident Site:		Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:		Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 2700 ft agl	Temperature/Dew Point:	31° C / 18° C
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	15 knots/ 25 knots, 60°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	29.94 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Kaunakakai, HI (I-99)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Honolulu, HI (HNL)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1430 HST	Type of Airspace:	Class B

Airport Information

Airport:	Honolulu International (HNL)	Runway Surface Type:	N/A
Airport Elevation:	13 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Unknown
Runway Used:	N/A	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	2 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	3 None		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Thomas Little	Adopted Date:	11/13/2014
Additional Participating Persons:	Donald G Andera; Federal Aviation Administration; Honolulu, HI		
Publish Date:	10/07/2015		
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=89788		

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