



## National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

---

<b>Location:</b>	North Salt Lake, UT	<b>Accident Number:</b>	WPR15FA051
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	12/02/2014, 1400 MST	<b>Registration:</b>	N3234U
<b>Aircraft:</b>	ROBINSON HELICOPTER COMPANY R44	<b>Injuries:</b>	2 Fatal
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

---

On December 2, 2014, about 1400 mountain standard time, a Robinson R44 II helicopter, N3234U, impacted a two-story building while maneuvering near Skypark Airport (BTF), Bountiful, Utah. The commercial pilot-rated mechanic and passenger were fatally injured. The helicopter was substantially damaged. The helicopter was registered to Native Range Capture Services, Inc., Elko, Nevada and operated by Native Range Inc, Ventura, California. The local flight was conducted under the provisions of 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91 as a post maintenance flight. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed for the flight, and no flight plan was filed. The flight departed from BTF shortly before the accident.

Witnesses, who were in the area of the accident site, reportedly heard popping sounds then saw the main rotor and empennage separate from the helicopter as the helicopter flew overhead. Several of the witnesses then saw the helicopter tumble in flight and impact the top of a building. The main rotor blade and empennage impacted the ground a few hundred feet from the impacted building.

The owner of the helicopter reported that mechanics performed maintenance to the main rotor assembly and the purpose of the post-maintenance flight was to check the "track and balance" of the main rotor blades.

Examination of the accident site by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigator-in-charge revealed that the helicopter impacted the top of a two-story building about 2,000 feet southwest of the approach end of runway 34 at BTF. A post-impact fire occurred that was concentrated at the main wreckage. The main wreckage had impact damage and was partially damaged by postimpact fire. The main rotor and empennage were found within the wreckage debris field. The wreckage debris field was about 880 feet in length and about 400 feet in width and on a 277 degree magnetic heading. The wreckage was recovered to a secure location for further examination.

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Manufacturer:</b>	ROBINSON HELICOPTER COMPANY	<b>Registration:</b>	N3234U
<b>Model/Series:</b>	R44 II	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Helicopter
<b>Amateur Built:</b>	No		
<b>Operator:</b>	Native Range Inc.	<b>Air Carrier Operating Certificate:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	KSLC, 4227 ft msl	<b>Observation Time:</b>	2053 UTC
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Scattered / 15000 ft agl	<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual Conditions
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Broken / 19000 ft agl	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	8°C / 2°C
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>	3 knots, 320°	<b>Visibility</b>	10 Miles
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30.05 inches Hg	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	
<b>Departure Point:</b>	BOUNTIFUL, UT (BTF)	<b>Destination:</b>	BOUNTIFUL, UT (BTF)

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	On-Ground
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	2 Fatal		

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Andrew L Swick
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	David Odekirk; FAA-FSDO; Salt Lake City, UT Thom Webster; Robinson Helicopter Company; Torrance, CA Troy Helgeson; Lycoming Engines; Denver, CO
<b>Note:</b>	The NTSB traveled to the scene of this accident.