



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

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|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| <b>Location:</b>               | Calexico, CA                          | <b>Accident Number:</b> | WPR15LA096 |
| <b>Date &amp; Time:</b>        | 02/01/2015, 0030 PST                  | <b>Registration:</b>    | N510KJ     |
| <b>Aircraft:</b>               | ROBINSON HELICOPTER COMPANY<br>R44 II | <b>Injuries:</b>        | 1 None     |
| <b>Flight Conducted Under:</b> | Part 137: Agricultural                |                         |            |

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On February 1, 2015, about 0030 Pacific standard time, a Robinson R44, N510KJ, sustained substantial damage following a partial loss of engine power and subsequent forced landing approximately 5 miles east of Calexico, California. The certificated commercial pilot, the sole occupant of the helicopter, was not injured. The helicopter was registered to John Reed Aviation and was operated as an agricultural aerial application flight under the provisions of 14 Code of Federal Aviation Regulations Part 137. Night visual meteorological conditions prevailed and no flight plan was filed. The local flight originated at Calexico International Airport, Calexico, California, about 0025.

In a written statement to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigator-in-charge, the pilot reported that after reaching the field and during the first turn he experienced a loss of engine power. He further reported that his attempt to autorotate was unsuccessful because of his low altitude. The helicopter landed hard and rolled onto its right side, resulting in substantial damage to the forward fuselage and tailboom.

The wreckage was relocated to a secure facility for further examination.

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

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|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| <b>Aircraft Manufacturer:</b> | ROBINSON HELICOPTER<br>COMPANY | <b>Registration:</b>                          | N510KJ                      |
| <b>Model/Series:</b>          | R44 II                         | <b>Aircraft Category:</b>                     | Helicopter                  |
| <b>Amateur Built:</b>         | No                             |   |                             |
| <b>Operator:</b>              | John Reed Aviation             | <b>Air Carrier Operating<br/>Certificate:</b> | Agricultural Aircraft (137) |

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

|                                  |                    |                              |                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Observation Facility, Elevation: | KIPL, -56 ft msl   | Observation Time:            | 0853 UTC           |
| Lowest Cloud Condition:          | Clear              | Conditions at Accident Site: | Visual Conditions  |
| Lowest Ceiling:                  | None               | Temperature/Dew Point:       | 11°C / 6°C         |
| Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:     | 5 knots, 260°      | Visibility                   | 10 Miles           |
| Altimeter Setting:               | 29.96 inches Hg    | Type of Flight Plan Filed:   | None               |
| Departure Point:                 | Calexico, CA (CXL) | Destination:                 | Calexico, CA (CXL) |

## 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        |
| Total Injuries:     | 1 None |                     |             |

## Administrative Information

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Investigator In Charge (IIC):     | Andrew L Swick   |
| Additional Participating Persons: |  |
| Note:                             | The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident. |