



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Forest City, SD	Accident Number:	GAA15CA196
Date & Time:	07/01/2015, 2100 CDT	Registration:	N824DK
Aircraft:	ROBINSON HELICOPTER COMPANY R44 II	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Controlled flight into terr/obj (CFIT)	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that after he dropped his passenger off on a road, he departed to the east in smoky and hazy conditions. Shortly after takeoff, the helicopter impacted power transmission line wires that ran across the road. The helicopter then impacted the ground and skidded to a stop.

The pilot reported there were no pre-impact mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airframe or engine that would have precluded normal operation. The helicopter sustained substantial damage to the main rotors, upper arm, and fork assembly.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to monitor the flight environment for adequate terrain/obstacle clearance during takeoff, which resulted in the inflight collision with power transmission line wires.

Findings

Aircraft	Aircraft propeller/rotor - Damaged/degraded
Personnel issues	Attention - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Wire - Awareness of condition Haze/smoke - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Maneuvering	Controlled flight into terr/obj (CFIT) (Defining event)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	63
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Without Waivers/Limitations	Last Medical Exam:	02/05/2014
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	06/19/2014
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 261 hours (Total, all aircraft), 249 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	ROBINSON HELICOPTER COMPANY	Registration:	N824DK
Model/Series:	R44 II II	Aircraft Category:	Helicopter
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	11117
Landing Gear Type:	Skid;	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	05/21/2015, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	16 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	391 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	C126 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO-540 AE1A5
Registered Owner:	WARNER FARM CORP.	Rated Power:	235 hp
Operator:	WARNER FARM CORP.	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	KMBG, 1715 ft msl	Observation Time:	0152 UTC
Distance from Accident Site:	33 Nautical Miles	Condition of Light:	Dusk
Direction from Accident Site:	351°	Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Temperature/Dew Point:	24° C / 20° C
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility	7 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	6 knots, 70°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	29.91 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Forest City, SD	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Forest City, SD	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	2100 CDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

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):	Jackie L Vanover	Adopted Date:	10/08/2015
Additional Participating Persons:	William J Howell; FAA; Rapid City, SD		
Publish Date:	10/08/2015		
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=91612		

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government 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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