



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

Location:	Dallas, OR	Accident Number:	WPR16LA020
Date & Time:	11/02/2015, 1424 PST	Registration:	N22743
Aircraft:	BELL 206B	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 133: Rotorcraft Ext. Load		

On November 2, 2015, about 1424 Pacific standard time, a Bell 206B, N22743, was substantially damaged during an autorotation landing following a partial loss of engine power near Dallas, Oregon. The helicopter was registered to and operated by Applebee Aviation, Banks, Oregon, under the provisions of Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 133. The commercial pilot, sole occupant of the helicopter, sustained minor injuries. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed and no flight plan was filed for the external load operations flight. The local flight originated from a staging area nearby the accident site about 15 minutes prior to the accident.

The pilot reported that prior to the accident flight the helicopter was refueled with 30 gallons of Jet-A fuel. The pilot departed from a staging area and began lifting Christmas trees from a field to a nearby loading zone. The pilot stated that after about 5 or 10 loads, he released a load of trees in the loading zone and shortly after, it seemed like the engine went to a reduced power setting at an altitude of about 50 feet above ground level. He further stated that he heard an abnormal noise originate from the helicopter as the helicopter began to spin to the right along with an illumination of a low rotor RPM light. The pilot jettisoned the external load line and rolled the throttle towards a closed position in order to counteract the yawing motion, with no response noted. The pilot initiated an autorotation and during the landing sequence, the helicopter impacted a tree. Subsequently, the helicopter came to rest upright in a nose high position.

Postaccident examination of the helicopter by a Federal Aviation Administration inspector revealed that the tailboom forward of the tailrotor gearbox was twisted about 90-degrees. The helicopter was recovered to a secure location for further examination.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	BELL	Registration:	N22743
Model/Series:	206B B	Aircraft Category:	Helicopter
Amateur Built:	No		
Operator:	APPLEBEE AVIATION INC	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	Rotorcraft External Load (133)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	KMMV, 159 ft msl	Observation Time:	2228 UTC
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 6500 ft agl	Temperature/Dew Point:	14° C / 8° C
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots, 230°	Visibility	4 Miles
Altimeter Setting:	29.93 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Departure Point:	Dallas, OR	Destination:	Dallas, OR

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Joshua Cawthra
Additional Participating Persons:	Dan Ridgeway; Federal Aviation Administration; Hillsboro, OR
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.