



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

Location:	Honolulu, HI	Accident Number:	WPR16LA175
Date & Time:	09/02/2016, 0945 HST	Registration:	N5232G
Aircraft:	MCDONNELL DOUGLAS HELICOPTER 500	Injuries:	1 Serious, 3 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Public Aircraft - Local		

On September 2, 2016, about 0945 Hawaii Standard Time, a McDonnell Douglas 500N helicopter, N5232G, was in an initial climb after rescuing a hiker and firefighter from the Diamond Head state trail in Honolulu, Hawaii, when the firefighter fell from the rescue net. Two crew members and one passenger were uninjured, and one crew member sustained serious injuries. The helicopter sustained no damage. The helicopter was registered to, and operated by the City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii, as a public use flight operated under 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed about the time of the accident, and no flight plan was filed. The local flight originated from the Honolulu International Airport (HNL) about 0935.

The operator reported that the pilot flew the helicopter from the airport to pick up an injured hiker and a firefighter from a nearby trail. A net that was attached to an approximate 75 foot line was lowered, and the hiker and firefighter climbed in. As the helicopter was flying away from the site, the firefighter fell from the net and impacted the ground about 25 feet below.

Video evidence revealed the net struck a pole just prior to the firefighter falling from the net.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	MCDONNELL DOUGLAS HELICOPTER	Registration:	N5232G
Model/Series:	500	Aircraft Category:	Helicopter
Amateur Built:			
Operator:	CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	Rotorcraft External Load (133)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	HNL, 13 ft msl	Observation Time:	0953 HST
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 2500 ft agl	Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 4800 ft agl	Temperature/Dew Point:	29° C / 19° C
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	15 knots, 50°	Visibility	10 Miles
Altimeter Setting:	30.02 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Departure Point:	Honolulu, HI (HNL)	Destination:	Honolulu, HI (HNL)

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Samantha A Link
Additional Participating Persons:	Kyle Bartler; Federal Aviation Administration; Honolulu, HI
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.