



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Taunton, MA	Accident Number:	GAA19CA195
Date & Time:	04/02/2019, 1243 EDT	Registration:	N344R
Aircraft:	Robinson R44	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, after landing the helicopter in an empty parking spot, he realized that the helicopter was oriented with a tailwind. He decided to reposition the helicopter, and shortly after liftoff, he felt a strong wind gust from the left. The helicopter's right skid then impacted the ground, and the helicopter dynamically rolled over. The helicopter sustained substantial damage to the fuselage, tailcone, and horizontal stabilizer. The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions with the helicopter that would have precluded normal operation.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The pilot's improper decision to land with a gusting left quartering tailwind and his subsequent attempt to reposition the helicopter and take off, which resulted in a dynamic rollover.

Findings

Aircraft	Lateral/bank control - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Decision making/judgment - Pilot (Cause) Aircraft control - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Gusts - Effect on operation (Cause) Tailwind - Effect on operation (Cause)

Factual Information

History of Flight

Maneuvering-hover	Other weather encounter Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
After landing	Dynamic rollover

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	69, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Helicopter	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Without Waivers/Limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	03/09/2019
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	09/24/2017
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 920.7 hours (Total, all aircraft), 116.5 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Robinson	Registration:	N344R
Model/Series:	R44 II	Aircraft Category:	Helicopter
Year of Manufacture:	2004	Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	10288
Landing Gear Type:	Skid;	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	06/15/2018, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO-540
Registered Owner:	Jrvc Transportation Inc	Rated Power:	
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KTAN, 43 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1652 UTC	Direction from Accident Site:	294°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	12 knots / 19 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:	150°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.42 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	9° C / -6° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	New Bedford, MA (EWB)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Taunton, MA (TAN)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1100 EDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Taunton Muni - King Field (TAN)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	41 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	30	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3500 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	41.874444, -71.016389 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Eleazar Nepomuceno	Report Date:	04/13/2020
Additional Participating Persons:	Douglas R Daruka; FAA; Boston, MA		
Publish Date:	04/13/2020		
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=99217		

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.

The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).