



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

Location:	Watter Valley, TX	Accident Number:	CEN19LA245
Date & Time:	07/08/2019, 1730 CDT	Registration:	N334DC
Aircraft:	Robinson R22	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Aerial Observation		

On July 8, 2019, about 1730 central daylight time, a Robinson R22 helicopter, N334DC, was substantially damaged during a forced landing near Watter Valley, Texas. The commercial pilot and passenger were not injured. The helicopter sustained substantial damage. The aerial observation flight was conducted under the provisions of Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed and no Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) flight plan had been filed for the flight.

The pilot stated that during the flight over a canyon, it felt as if "the bottom fell out from under him". He reported that the main rotor RPMs dropped and he was unable to recover. The helicopter rolled over on its left side during the impact with the ground. The pilot stated that the tail boom separated from the fuselage and the main rotor blades were damaged. The pilot later reported a loss of engine power. The helicopter has been retained for further examination.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Robinson	Registration:	N334DC
Model/Series:	R22 BETA	Aircraft Category:	Helicopter
Amateur Built:	No		
Operator:	Trans-Pecos Aviation Llc	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KSJT, 1916 ft msl	Observation Time:	2251 UTC
Distance from Accident Site:	31 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	32 °C / 23 °C
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	9 knots / , 140°
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility:	10 Miles
Altimeter Setting:	29.89 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Departure Point:	Water Valley, TX	Destination:	Water Valley, TX

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	31.835000, -100.686667 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Jennifer Rodi
Additional Participating Persons:	Dawna Gourmic; FAA; Lubbock, TX
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.