



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Factual Report

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|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------|
| Location: | Independence, IA | Accident Number: | CEN20CA064 |
| Date & Time: | 01/21/2020, 1615 CST | Registration: | N715RK |
| Aircraft: | Guimbal Cabri G2 | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Defining Event: | Loss of control in flight | Injuries: | 1 Serious |
| Flight Conducted Under: | Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional | | |

The student pilot, who was flying solo, reported that he "lost control" of the helicopter as he maneuvered over the ramp for a landing toward south and into the wind. The pilot was unable to regain directional control before the helicopter impacted an unoccupied airplane and a hangar. Airport security video footage showed the helicopter had approached the ramp in a hover-taxi heading east before it entered an increasingly rapid left spin as it drifted north toward a parked airplane and a hangar. The helicopter cabin and tail boom sustained substantial damage. The pilot reported that there were no mechanical malfunctions that would have precluded normal operation of the helicopter. The pilot stated that the wind direction might have changed during the landing; however, a postaccident review of available weather data confirmed that the wind was likely from the south at 12-13 knots.

Pilot Information

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| Certificate: | Student | Age: | 22, Male |
| Airplane Rating(s): | None | Seat Occupied: | Right |
| Other Aircraft Rating(s): | None | 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 FAA Medical Exam: | 09/21/2018 |
| Occupational Pilot: | No | Last Flight Review or Equivalent: | |
| Flight Time: | 65 hours (Total, all aircraft), 65 hours (Total, this make and model), 3 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 33 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 23 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft) | | |

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

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|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Aircraft Make: | Guimbal | Registration: | N715RK |
| Model/Series: | Cabri G2 | Aircraft Category: | Helicopter |
| Year of Manufacture: | 2019 | Amateur Built: | No |
| Airworthiness Certificate: | Normal | Serial Number: | 1255 |
| Landing Gear Type: | Skid | Seats: | 2 |
| Date/Type of Last Inspection: | 12/12/2019, 100 Hour | Certified Max Gross Wt.: | 1543 lbs |
| Time Since Last Inspection: | | Engines: | 1 Reciprocating |
| Airframe Total Time: | 154.5 Hours at time of accident | Engine Manufacturer: | Lycoming |
| ELT: | C126 installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident | Engine Model/Series: | O-360-J2A |
| Registered Owner: | H&H Helicopter, LLC | Rated Power: | 180 hp |
| Operator: | University of Dubuque | Operating Certificate(s) Held: | Pilot School (141) |

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

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| Conditions at Accident Site: | Visual Conditions | Condition of Light: | Day |
| Observation Facility, Elevation: | IIB, 979 ft msl | Distance from Accident Site: | 0 Nautical Miles |
| Observation Time: | 1615 CST | Direction from Accident Site: | |
| Lowest Cloud Condition: | Clear | Visibility | 7 Miles |
| Lowest Ceiling: | None | Visibility (RVR): | |
| Wind Speed/Gusts: | 12 knots / | Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual: | None / None |
| Wind Direction: | 170° | Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual: | N/A / N/A |
| Altimeter Setting: | 30.34 inches Hg | Temperature/Dew Point: | -9° C / -11° C |
| Precipitation and Obscuration: | No Obscuration; No Precipitation | | |
| Departure Point: | Monticello, IA (MXO) | Type of Flight Plan Filed: | VFR |
| Destination: | Independence, IA (IIB) | Type of Clearance: | None |
| Departure Time: | 1525 CST | Type of Airspace: | Class G |

Airport Information

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|----------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Airport: | Independence Municipal Airport (IIB) | Runway Surface Type: | Concrete |
| Airport Elevation: | 979 ft | Runway Surface Condition: | Dry |
| Runway Used: | N/A | IFR Approach: | None |
| Runway Length/Width: | | VFR Approach/Landing: | Full Stop; Traffic Pattern |

Wreckage and Impact Information

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|----------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Crew Injuries: | 1 Serious | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Passenger Injuries: | N/A | Aircraft Fire: | None |
| Ground Injuries: | N/A | Aircraft Explosion: | None |
| Total Injuries: | 1 Serious | Latitude, Longitude: | 42.456111, -91.945278 (est) |

Administrative Information

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|--|---|
| Investigator In Charge (IIC): | Andrew T Fox |
| Additional Participating Persons: | Brian Lundquist; Federal Aviation Administration - Des Moines FSDO; Ankeny, IA Dan Michaelson; Federal Aviation Administration - Des Moines FSDO; Ankeny, IA |
| 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=100848 |