



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Factual Report

<b>Location:</b>	Marfa, TX	<b>Accident Number:</b>	CEN20CA085
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	02/14/2020, 1055 CST	<b>Registration:</b>	N441KA
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Robinson R44	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Miscellaneous/other	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

The helicopter pilot reported that he was flying parallel to a 10 ft barbed wire fence while herding cows into a livestock pen. While maneuvering, the helicopter's tail rotor struck the fence and the helicopter spun multiple times to the right. The helicopter ascended about 10 ft and the pilot retarded the throttle and lowered the collective to the full down position to minimize the rapid right spin. The helicopter impacted the ground and came to rest upright causing damage to the tail rotor drive system and tail boom.

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	56, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine Land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Right
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Helicopter	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane; Helicopter	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 With Waivers/Limitations	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	09/06/2019
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	Yes	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	12/19/2019
<b>Flight Time:</b>	(Estimated) 13465 hours (Total, all aircraft), 448 hours (Total, this make and model), 51 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 34 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Robinson	<b>Registration:</b>	N441KA
<b>Model/Series:</b>	R44 II	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Helicopter
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	2005	<b>Amateur Built:</b>	No
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	10824
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Skid;	<b>Seats:</b>	4
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	01/21/2019, Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	2500 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	2680 Hours at time of accident	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Lycoming
<b>ELT:</b>	C126 installed, activated, aided in locating accident	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	IO-540-AE1A5
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	On file	<b>Rated Power:</b>	240 hp
<b>Operator:</b>	On file	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	Agricultural Aircraft (137); Rotorcraft External Load (133); On-demand Air Taxi (135)

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual Conditions	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	KMRF, 4849 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	0 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	1656 UTC	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	104°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Visibility</b>	10 Miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	6 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	140°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30.26 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	9° C / -1° C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Marfa, TX	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	VFR
<b>Destination:</b>	Marfa, TX	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	0800 CST	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	29.981944, -104.386944 (est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Michael A Hicks
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Gordon D Morris; FAA; Lubbock, TX
<b>Note:</b>	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=100949">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=100949</a>