



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	JUNEAU, AK	Accident Number:	ANC99LA140
Date & Time:	09/10/1999, 1445 AKD	Registration:	N6052C
Aircraft:	Eurocopter AS-350B-2	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation -		

Analysis

The commercial helicopter pilot, with one passenger aboard, was conducting a search for an overdue company helicopter. While searching the upper portion of a glacial ice field, deteriorating weather conditions required the pilot to alter his search route. He said that he slowed the helicopter to 15 knots and attempted to use a mountain range on the right side of the helicopter for visual reference. He said: 'Visibility in front was enough to see all the way to the top of the Herbert (greater than three miles). The ceiling sloped down to the east 45 degrees with a height at the ridge of approximately 700 feet.' The pilot added that just seconds before the impact, he thought the helicopter was at least 500 feet above the surface. He said that 'flat light conditions' made it very difficult to see the topographical features of the ice field below. The helicopter struck the snow-covered ice field, slid about 75 feet, and the helicopter rolled over to the right. The helicopter sustained substantial damage to the fuselage, tail boom, and rotor system. After the accident, the pilot radioed for another company helicopter to pick them up. A second company helicopter, N6099Y, landed at the accident site, boarded the uninjured pilot and passenger, and continued the search. During the search, N6099Y also collided with the snow-covered ice field. See ANC99FA139, and ANC99LA141. The accident pilot did not possess an instrument rating, and the helicopter was not equipped with a radar altimeter.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to maintain altitude/clearance. Factors associated with the accident were flat light conditions, snow-covered terrain, and self-induced pressure to continue the search.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

1. (C) ALTITUDE/CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) SELF-INDUCED PRESSURE - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - OTHER
4. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - SNOW COVERED

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	27
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Instructor Rating(s):	Helicopter
Flight Time:	2396 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1537 hours (Total, this make and model), 2336 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 170 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 47 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Eurocopter	Registration:	N6052C
Model/Series:	AS-350B-2 AS-350B-2	Engines:	1 Turbo Shaft
Operator:	TEMSCO HELICOPTERS, INC.	Engine Manufacturer:	Turbomeca
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand Air Taxi (135)	Engine Model/Series:	ARRIEL D1D
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation -		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Pilot
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 700 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots / , 180°
Temperature:	7°C	Visibility	6 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	, AK (JNU)	Destination:	

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
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	CLINTON O JOHNSON	Adopted Date:	08/10/2000
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at pubin@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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