



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	JUNEAU, AK	Accident Number:	ANC99LA141
Date & Time:	09/10/1999, 1630 AKD	Registration:	N6099Y
Aircraft:	Eurocopter AS-350B-2	Injuries:	4 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation -		

Analysis

The commercial helicopter pilot, with one passenger aboard, was en route from Petersburg to Juneau, when he was requested to join a search for an overdue company helicopter (N6007S). He said that just after entering the search area, he received a radio transmission from another company helicopter (N6052C), who was also involved in the search. The pilot of N6052C informed him that he had crashed on the ice field, and required assistance. The pilot of N6099Y stated that poor weather conditions in the vicinity N6052C would not allow the him to land, so he elected to return to the airport for fuel, and wait for better weather conditions. After refueling, he returned to the accident site of N6052C, where weather conditions had improved. After landing, the uninjured pilot and passenger boarded N6099Y, and all aboard agreed to continue the search for N6007S. The pilot of N6099Y stated that he was able to locate the downed helicopter about two miles directly in front of his location. He said that he slowed the helicopter to about 30 knots in an attempt to gain reference using a mountain range on the left side of the helicopter, and the accident site of N6007S. He said: 'The ceiling at my location was at least 1,000 feet agl, and visibility towards 07S was more than six miles. Just before the impact, I was sure I was at least 500 feet agl.' The pilot added that 'flat light conditions' hampered his ability to see the topographical features of the ice field below. The helicopter struck the snow-covered ice field, slid about 50 feet, nosed over, and rolled to the left. The helicopter sustained substantial damage to the fuselage, tail boom, and rotor system. The accident 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: CRUISE

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:	31
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Instrument Rating(s):	Helicopter
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Instructor Rating(s):	Helicopter
Flight Time:	4100 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1250 hours (Total, this make and model), 4000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 213 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 80 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Eurocopter	Registration:	N6099Y
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 1D1
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 / 500 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	10 knots / 15 knots, 180°
Temperature:	0°C	Visibility	6 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	, AK (JUN)	Destination:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	3 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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