



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	DULUTH, Georgia	Accident Number:	ATL85FA170
Date & Time:	May 20, 1985, 19:30 Local	Registration:	N403DC
Aircraft:	BELL 206L	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Fatal, 1 Serious, 1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air taxi & commuter - Non-scheduled - Air Medical (Unspecified)		

Analysis

AFTER LOADING A SERIOUSLY BURNED PATIENT IN THE HELICOPTER, THE PLT STARTED THE ENG & LIFTED OFF FROM THE HOSPITAL PARKING LOT. IMMEDIATELY AFTER LIFT-OFF, HE STARTED FORWARD TRANSLATIONAL FLT. ABOUT 65 FT FROM THE LIFT-OFF POINT, AN ADVANCING MAIN ROTOR BLADE STRUCK AN UNMARKED LAMP POST. THE HELICOPTER THEN CRASHED IN THE PARKING LOT, JUST BEYOND THE LAMP POST. THE PLT & ONE MEDICAL ATTENDANT WERE FATALLY INJURED, THE OTHER MEDICAL ATTENDANT WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED. REPORTEDLY, THE PATIENT DID NOT SUSTAIN ANY ADDITIONAL DISCERNIBLE INJURY FROM THE CRASH.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. (C) PREFLIGHT PLANNING/PREPARATION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) OBJECT - UTILITY POLE
3. (C) VISUAL LOOKOUT - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (F) VISUAL/AURAL DETECTION - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Private	Age:	35, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	September 28, 1984
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	BELL	Registration:	N403DC
Model/Series:	206L 206L	Aircraft Category:	Helicopter
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	45032
Landing Gear Type:	Skid	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	April 16, 1985 100 hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	4000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	38 Hrs	Engines:	1 Turbo shaft
Airframe Total Time:	4121 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	ALLISON
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	250-C20B
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	420 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand air taxi (135)
Operator Does Business As:	[EMS]	Operator Designator Code:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PDK ,1002 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	11 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	18:48 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	229°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 6000 ft AGL	Visibility	11 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 15000 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	7 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	200°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	26 °C / 15 °C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	CHAMBLEE , GA (PDK)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	19:32 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	17A	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	0 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	0 ft / 0 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 Fatal, 1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 Fatal, 1 Serious, 1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Stiner, Walter

Additional Participating Persons: KEN BRANTLEY; ATLANTA, GA
JOSEPH A SYSLO; FT. WORTH TX

Original Publish Date:

Note:

Investigation Docket: <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=6614>

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).