

National Transportation Safety Board  
Washington, DC 20594

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Brief of Accident

Adopted 05/17/2001

CHI00LA135  
File No. 455                      05/13/2000                      ITHACA, MI                      Aircraft Reg No. N962WM                      Time (Local): 12:49 EDT

Make/Model: Rotorway / EXEC 162F  
Engine Make/Model: Rotorway / RI162F  
Aircraft Damage: Destroyed  
Number of Engines: Unk/Nr  
Operating Certificate(s): None  
Type of Flight Operation: Personal  
Reg. Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation

	Fatal	Serious	Minor/None
Crew	1	0	0
Pass	0	0	0

Last Depart. Point: UNK  
Destination: Local Flight  
Airport Proximity: Off Airport/Airstrip

Condition of Light: Day  
Weather Info Src: Weather Observation Facility  
Basic Weather: Visual Conditions  
Lowest Ceiling: None  
Visibility: 10.00 SM  
Wind Dir/Speed: 280 / 021 Kts  
Temperature (°C): 13  
Precip/Obscuration:

Pilot-in-Command                      Age: 56

Flight Time (Hours)

Certificate(s)/Rating(s)  
Private; Single-engine Land; Helicopter

Total All Aircraft: 250  
Last 90 Days: Unk/Nr  
Total Make/Model: Unk/Nr  
Total Instrument Time: Unk/Nr

Instrument Ratings  
None

The helicopter was destroyed when it impacted the terrain. The helicopter came to rest upright in a farm field. Pieces of plexiglas, sheet metal, the right horizontal stabilizer and a section of the tail rotor drive belt were found about 1/2 mile east-northeast of the main wreckage. The left entry doorframe and the right horizontal tailboom fin were found about 1/4 mile east-northeast of the main wreckage. No anomalies were found that could be associated with a preexisting condition.

Brief of Accident (Continued)

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Occurrence #1:     AIRFRAME/COMPONENT/SYSTEM FAILURE/MALFUNCTION  
Phase of Operation: CRUISE

Findings

1. (C) DOOR - SEPARATION
  2. (C) DOOR - UNDETERMINED
  3. (C) MISC ROTORCRAFT, TAIL BOOM - FOREIGN OBJECT DAMAGE
  4. (C) ROTOR SYSTEM, TAIL ROTOR - FOREIGN OBJECT DAMAGE
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Occurrence #2:     LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

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Occurrence #3:     IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings Legend: (C) = Cause, (F) = Factor

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The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows.  
the door separation for undetermined reasons and the foreign object damage due to the door impact to the tailboom and tail rotor drive system.