## National Transportation Safety Board Washington, DC 20594

## **Brief of Accident**

## Adopted 10/06/1988

FTW87LA101

File No. 1253 04/23/1987 DE QUINCY, LA Aircraft Reg No. N414A Time (Local): 14:00 CDT Make/Model: Sikorsky / S-55B Fatal Serious Minor/None Engine Make/Model: Wright / R-1300 Crew 0 0 1 Aircraft Damage: Substantial Pass 0 0 0 Number of Engines: 1 Operating Certificate(s): Agricultural Operator Type of Flight Operation: Aerial Application Reg. Flight Conducted Under: Part 137: Agricultural Last Depart. Point: DEQUINEY, LA Condition of Light: Day Destination: Local Flight Weather Info Src: Pilot Airport Proximity: Off Airport/Airstrip Basic Weather: Visual Conditions Lowest Ceiling: None Visibility: 7.00 SM Wind Dir/Speed: 360 / 002 Kts Temperature (°C): 29 Precip/Obscuration:

Pilot-in-Command

Certificate(s)/Rating(s)

Commercial: Multi-engine Land; Multi-engine Sea; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea; Helicopter

Age: 39

Instrument Ratings

None

Flight Time (Hours)

Total All Aircraft: 8000 Last 90 Days: Unk/Nr Total Make/Model: 6000 Total Instrument Time: UnK/Nr

Printed on: 2/24/2009 9:54:38 PM

THE PILOT EXPERIENCED AN ENGINE SURGE FOLLOWED BY A COMPLETE LOSS OF POWER DURING A SWATH RUN OF A TREE SPRAYING AG OPERATION. THE WOODED AREA AND AUTOROTATED INTO TREES. THE OWNER WAS AWARE OF A CARBURETOR PROBLEM AND HAD ALREADY HELICOPTER WAS OVER A DENSELY OBTAINED A REBUILT CARBURETOR FOR THE ENGINE, HOWEVER, IT HAD NOT YET BEEN INSTALLED WHEN THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED. A POST ACCIDENT EXAMINATION OF THE ENGINE WAS NOT CONDUCTED. THEREFORE, THE EXACT CAUSE OF THE ENGINE FAILURE IS UNDETERMINED.

## Brief of Accident (Continued)

FTW87LA101

File No. 1253 04/23/1987 DE QUINCY, LA Aircraft Reg No. N414A Time (Local): 14:00 CDT

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER

Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - AERIAL APPLICATION

Findings

1. (C) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED

2. (F) OPERATION WITH KNOWN DEFICIENCIES IN EQUIPMENT - INTENTIONAL - COMPANY/OPERATOR MANAGEMENT

-----

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

-----

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Findings

3. (F) OBJECT - TREE(S)

-----

Occurrence #4: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

4. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - NONE SUITABLE

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

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows.