

Brief of Accident (Continued)

LAX92LA319
File No. 2684 07/28/1992 HAYFORK, CA Aircraft Reg No. N89NW Time (Local): 08:00 PDT

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

Findings

1. (C) LUBRICATING SYSTEM,OIL SEAL - LOOSE
 2. (C) LUBRICATING SYSTEM,OIL SEAL - LEAK
 3. (C) MAINTENANCE,INSTALLATION - IMPROPER - COMPANY MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL
 4. (C) ROTOR DRIVE SYSTEM,ENGINE TO TRANSMISSION DRIVE - OVERTEMPERATURE
 5. (C) ROTOR DRIVE SYSTEM,ENGINE TO TRANSMISSION DRIVE - FAILURE,TOTAL
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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Findings

6. AUTOROTATION - INITIATED - PILOT IN COMMAND
 7. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - NONE SUITABLE
 8. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - MOUNTAINOUS/HILLY
 9. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - TREE(S)
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Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

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

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

THE FAILURE OF THE MAIN ROTOR DRIVE SHAFT DUE TO THE IMPROPER INSTALLATION BY COMPANY MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL OF AN 'O' RING SEAL, WHICH ALLOWED THE PACKING GREASE TO ESCAPE AND CAUSED THE OVER TEMPERATURE FAILURE OF THE DRIVE SHAFT. A FACTOR IN THE ACCIDENT WAS THE LACK OF SUITABLE TERRAIN IN WHICH TO PERFORM AN AUTOROTATION.