 National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION	NTSB ID: CHI99LA153	Aircraft Registration Number: N781SA
	Occurrence Date: 05/15/1999	Most Critical Injury: None
	Occurrence Type: Accident	Investigated By: NTSB

Location/Time

Nearest City/Place ROCKTON	State IL	Zip Code 61072	Local Time 2122	Time Zone CDT	
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Airport Proximity: Off Airport/Airstrip	Distance From Landing Facility:
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Aircraft Information Summary

Aircraft Manufacturer Bell	Model/Series 222UT /222UT	Type of Aircraft Helicopter
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Revenue Sightseeing Flight: No

Air Medical Transport Flight:


Narrative


Brief narrative statement of facts, conditions and circumstances pertinent to the accident/incident:

On May 15, 1999, at 2122 central daylight time, a Bell 222UT, N781SA, operated by Air Methods Corporation, sustained substantial damage during landing in a field 3 miles west of Rockton, Illinois. The Emergency Medical Service positioning flight was conducted under 14 CFR Part 91 and was not operating on a flight plan. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed at the time of the accident. There were no injuries reported by the airline transport pilot or the other two crew members. The flight originated from Saint Anthony's Medical Center, Rockford, Illinois, at 2111.

Post accident inspection of the aircraft showed damage to the nose cowl, landing skids, and tail boom. The tail rotor assembly contacted the ground and was separated from the aircraft. The tail boom skins and substructure were damaged during the impact. No preexisting anomalies were found and the pilot reported none.

The pilot/operator report states that the "pilot oriented his approach angle off the bright lights from the emergency vehicles and a ground guide with two light wands. The hard landing occurred at 2122."

 National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION		NTSB ID: CHI99LA153				
		Occurrence Date: 05/15/1999				
		Occurrence Type: Accident				
Landing Facility/Approach Information						
Airport Name		Airport ID:	Airport Elevation 800 Ft. MSL	Runway Used 0	Runway Length	Runway Width
Runway Surface Type:						
Runway Surface Condition:						
Approach/Arrival Flown: NONE						
VFR Approach/Landing: Traffic Pattern						
Aircraft Information						
Aircraft Manufacturer Bell		Model/Series 222UT /222UT		Serial Number 47537		
Airworthiness Certificate(s): Utility						
Landing Gear Type: Skid						
Amateur Built Acft? No		Number of Seats: 7	Certified Max Gross Wt. 8250 LBS		Number of Engines: 2	
Engine Type: Turbo Shaft		Engine Manufacturer: Lycoming		Model/Series: LTS101750C-1	Rated Power: 735 HP	
- Aircraft Inspection Information						
Type of Last Inspection 100 Hour		Date of Last Inspection 04/1999	Time Since Last Inspection 46 Hours		Airframe Total Time 7459 Hours	
- Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) Information						
ELT Installed?/Type Yes /		ELT Operated? Yes	ELT Aided in Locating Accident Site? No			
Owner/Operator Information						
Registered Aircraft Owner AIR METHODS CORPORATION		Street Address 7301 SOUTH PEORIA STREET				
		City ENGLEWOOD		State CO	Zip Code 80112	
Operator of Aircraft AIR METHODS CORPORATION		Street Address 7301 SOUTH PEORIA STREET				
		City ENGLEWOOD		State CO	Zip Code 80112	
Operator Does Business As:			Operator Designator Code:			
- Type of U.S. Certificate(s) Held:						
Air Carrier Operating Certificate(s): On-demand Air Taxi						
Operating Certificate:			Operator Certificate:			
Regulation Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation						
Type of Flight Operation Conducted: Positioning						

 <p>National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION</p>	NTSB ID: CHI99LA153
	Occurrence Date: 05/15/1999
	Occurrence Type: Accident

First Pilot Information

Name On File	City On File	State On File	Date of Birth On File	Age 40
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Sex: M	Seat Occupied: Right	Occupational Pilot? Yes	Certificate Number: On File
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Certificate(s): Airline Transport

Airplane Rating(s): None

Rotorcraft/Glider/LTA: Helicopter

Instrument Rating(s): Helicopter

Instructor Rating(s): None

Current Biennial Flight Review?

Medical Cert.: Class 1	Medical Cert. Status: Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Date of Last Medical Exam: 05/1999
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- Flight Time Matrix	All A/C	This Make and Model	Airplane Single Engine	Airplane Multi-Engine	Night	Instrument		Rotorcraft	Glider	Lighter Than Air
						Actual	Simulated			
Total Time	3200	250	10		810	61	13	3190		
Pilot In Command(PIC)	2150	245								
Instructor										
Instruction Received										
Last 90 Days	35	32			7	1		35		
Last 30 Days	10	7			3			10		
Last 24 Hours										

Seatbelt Used? Yes	Shoulder Harness Used? Yes	Toxicology Performed? No	Second Pilot? No
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Flight Plan/Itinerary

Type of Flight Plan Filed: Company VFR

Departure Point ROCKFORD	State IL	Airport Identifier LL84	Departure Time 2111	Time Zone CDT
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Destination Same as Accident/Incident Location	State	Airport Identifier	
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Type of Clearance: None

Type of Airspace: Class G

Weather Information

Source of Wx Information:

Company

 <p>National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION</p>	NTSB ID: CHI99LA153
	Occurrence Date: 05/15/1999
	Occurrence Type: Accident


Weather Information

WOF ID	Observation Time	Time Zone	WOF Elevation	WOF Distance From Accident Site	Direction From Accident Site
RFD	2054	CDT	742 Ft. MSL	16 NM	170 Deg. Mag.
Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition: Scattered			3800 Ft. AGL	Condition of Light: Night/Dark	
Lowest Ceiling: Overcast			7000 Ft. AGL	Visibility: 4 SM	Altimeter: 30.00 "Hg
Temperature: 17 °C	Dew Point: 16 °C	Weather Conditions at Accident Site: Visual Conditions			
Wind Direction: 100	Wind Speed: 5	Wind Gusts:			
Visibility (RVR): Ft.	Visibility (RVV) SM				
Precip and/or Obscuration: Haze; No Precipitation					

Accident Information

Aircraft Damage: Substantial	Aircraft Fire: None	Aircraft Explosion: None
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- Injury Summary Matrix	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None	TOTAL
First Pilot				1	1
Second Pilot					
Student Pilot					
Flight Instructor					
Check Pilot					
Flight Engineer					
Cabin Attendants					
Other Crew				2	2
Passengers					
- TOTAL ABOARD -				3	3
Other Ground					
- GRAND TOTAL -				3	3

 National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION	NTSB ID: CHI99LA153	
	Occurrence Date: 05/15/1999	
	Occurrence Type: Accident	

Administrative Information

Investigator-In-Charge (IIC)

John M. Brannen

Additional Persons Participating in This Accident/Incident Investigation:

BOB DONAHUE
WEST CHICAGO, IL