


 National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION		NTSB ID: FTW98LA163		Aircraft Registration Number: N2628B	
		Occurrence Date: 03/31/1998		Most Critical Injury: None	
		Occurrence Type: Accident		Investigated By: NTSB	
Location/Time					
Nearest City/Place RIVIERA	State TX	Zip Code 78379	Local Time 1230	Time Zone CST	
Airport Proximity: Off Airport/Airstrip		Distance From Landing Facility:			
Aircraft Information Summary					
Aircraft Manufacturer Robinson		Model/Series R22 BETA /R22 BETA		Type of Aircraft Helicopter	
Revenue Sightseeing Flight: No			Air Medical Transport Flight: No		
Narrative					
<p>Brief narrative statement of facts, conditions and circumstances pertinent to the accident/incident:</p> <p>On March 31, 1998, at 1230 central standard time, a Robinson R22 Beta helicopter, N2628B, registered to and operated by Mesquite Helicopter Services, Inc., of Alice, Texas, was substantially damaged during a forced landing following a tail rotor ground strike while hovering near Riviera, Texas. The commercial pilot, the sole occupant, was not injured. No flight plan was filed and visual meteorological conditions prevailed for the Title 14 CFR Part 91 local business flight.</p> <p>The pilot reported that he was using the helicopter to herd cattle. With the helicopter "at an altitude of 3-5 feet AGL," he was attempting to move a bull towards a corral when the animal charged the helicopter. As the pilot maneuvered to avoid the bull, the helicopter's tail rotor contacted the water in a stock tank (pond), resulting in failure of the tail rotor drive shaft. The pilot performed an autorotation. The helicopter "spun twice" to the right, touched down in a level attitude in the stock tank, and rolled onto its right side.</p> <p>According to the pilot, the helicopter "came to rest on its right side in about 2 1/2 feet of water." He reported that the fuselage was dented, the main rotors were "severely bent," and the tail cone was "chopped."</p>					
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Landing Facility/Approach Information					
Airport Name	Airport ID:	Airport Elevation Ft. MSL	Runway Used 0	Runway Length	Runway Width
Runway Surface Type:					
Runway Surface Condition:					
Approach/Arrival Flown: NONE					
VFR Approach/Landing: Forced Landing					
Aircraft Information					
Aircraft Manufacturer Robinson		Model/Series R22 BETA /R22 BETA		Serial Number 0771	
Airworthiness Certificate(s): Normal					
Landing Gear Type: Skid					
Amateur Built Acft? No	Number of Seats: 2	Certified Max Gross Wt. 1370 LBS		Number of Engines: 1	
Engine Type: Reciprocating	Engine Manufacturer: Lycoming	Model/Series: O-320-B2C		Rated Power: 160 HP	
- Aircraft Inspection Information					
Type of Last Inspection 100 Hour	Date of Last Inspection	Time Since Last Inspection Hours		Airframe Total Time Hours	
- Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) Information					
ELT Installed?/Type Yes /		ELT Operated? No	ELT Aided in Locating Accident Site?		
Owner/Operator Information					
Registered Aircraft Owner MESQUITE HELICOPTER SERVICES		Street Address AIRPORT RD HANGAR 2			
		City ALICE	State TX	Zip Code 78332	
Operator of Aircraft MESQUITE HELICOPTER SERVICES		Street Address AIRPORT RD HANGAR 2			
		City ALICE	State TX	Zip Code 78332	
Operator Does Business As:			Operator Designator Code:		
- Type of U.S. Certificate(s) Held: None					
Air Carrier Operating Certificate(s):					
Operating Certificate:			Operator Certificate:		
Regulation Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation					
Type of Flight Operation Conducted: Other Work Use					
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First Pilot Information																																																																																																			
Name				City		State	Date of Birth	Age																																																																																											
On File				On File		On File	On File	40																																																																																											
Sex: M	Seat Occupied: Right		Occupational Pilot? Unknown				Certificate Number: On File																																																																																												
Certificate(s): Commercial																																																																																																			
Airplane Rating(s): Single-engine Land																																																																																																			
Rotorcraft/Glider/LTA: Helicopter																																																																																																			
Instrument Rating(s): Airplane																																																																																																			
Instructor Rating(s): None																																																																																																			
Current Biennial Flight Review?																																																																																																			
Medical Cert.: Class 2		Medical Cert. Status: Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.				Date of Last Medical Exam: 05/1997																																																																																													
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">- Flight Time Matrix</th> <th rowspan="2">All A/C</th> <th rowspan="2">This Make and Model</th> <th rowspan="2">Airplane Single Engine</th> <th rowspan="2">Airplane Multi-Engine</th> <th rowspan="2">Night</th> <th colspan="2">Instrument</th> <th rowspan="2">Rotorcraft</th> <th rowspan="2">Glider</th> <th rowspan="2">Lighter Than Air</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Actual</th> <th>Simulated</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total Time</td> <td>12000</td> <td>2000</td> <td>800</td> <td></td> <td>400</td> <td>50</td> <td>50</td> <td>11200</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pilot In Command(PIC)</td> <td>11500</td> <td>2000</td> <td>700</td> <td></td> <td>375</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Instructor</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Instruction Received</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Last 90 Days</td> <td>150</td> <td>150</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>150</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Last 30 Days</td> <td>40</td> <td>40</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>40</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Last 24 Hours</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>										- 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	12000	2000	800		400	50	50	11200			Pilot In Command(PIC)	11500	2000	700		375						Instructor											Instruction Received											Last 90 Days	150	150						150			Last 30 Days	40	40						40			Last 24 Hours	3	3						3		
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Seatbelt Used? Yes		Shoulder Harness Used? Yes			Toxicology Performed? No			Second Pilot? No																																																																																											
Flight Plan/Itinerary																																																																																																			
Type of Flight Plan Filed: None																																																																																																			
Departure Point		State			Airport Identifier		Departure Time		Time Zone																																																																																										
Same as Accident/Incident Location							0000																																																																																												
Destination		State			Airport Identifier																																																																																														
Local Flight																																																																																																			
Type of Clearance: None																																																																																																			
Type of Airspace: Class G																																																																																																			
Weather Information																																																																																																			
Source of Wx Information:																																																																																																			
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		Occurrence Type: Accident			

Weather Information					
WOF ID	Observation Time	Time Zone	WOF Elevation	WOF Distance From Accident Site	Direction From Accident Site
	0000		0 Ft. MSL	0 NM	0 Deg. Mag.
Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition: Clear			0 Ft. AGL	Condition of Light: Day	
Lowest Ceiling: None			0 Ft. AGL	Visibility: 10 SM	Altimeter: "Hg
Temperature: 21 °C		Dew Point: °C		Weather Conditions at Accident Site: Visual Conditions	
Wind Direction: 130		Wind Speed: 15		Wind Gusts: 20	
Visibility (RVR): 0 Ft.		Visibility (RVV) 0 SM			
Precip and/or Obscuration:					

Accident Information		
Aircraft Damage: Substantial	Aircraft Fire: None	Aircraft Explosion: None

- 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						
Passengers						
- TOTAL ABOARD -				1	1	
Other Ground	0	0	0		0	
- GRAND TOTAL -	0	0	0	1	1	

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	Occurrence Type: Accident	
Administrative Information		
Investigator-In-Charge (IIC) GEORGIA R. SNYDER		
Additional Persons Participating in This Accident/Incident Investigation: ROBERT P ANDERSON SAN ANTONIO, TX		
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