

National Transportation Safety Board
Washington, DC 20594

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Brief of Accident

Adopted 05/09/1995

ANC94LA096
File No. 1568 08/02/1994 WHITTIER, AK Aircraft Reg No. N2622M Time (Local): 14:30 ADT

Make/Model: Robinson / R-22
Engine Make/Model: Lycoming / O-320
Aircraft Damage: Substantial
Number of Engines: 1
Operating Certificate(s): On-demand Air Taxi; Aircraft External Load
Type of Flight Operation: Ferry
Reg. Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation

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

Last Depart. Point: ANCHORAGE, AK
Destination: CORDOVA, AK
Airport Proximity: Off Airport/Airstrip

Condition of Light: Day
Weather Info Src: Unknown
Basic Weather: Instrument Conditions
Lowest Ceiling: 100 Ft. AGL, Obscured
Visibility: .25 SM
Wind Dir/Speed: Light and Variable
Temperature (°C): 11
Precip/Obscuration:

Pilot-in-Command Age: 25

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

Instrument Ratings
None

Flight Time (Hours)

Total All Aircraft: 1450
Last 90 Days: 200
Total Make/Model: 1385
Total Instrument Time: 6

THE PILOT ENTERED AN OUT OF GROUND EFFECT HOVER OVER A RAVINE DUE TO DETERIORATING WEATHER. THE HELICOPTER BEGAN TO SETTLE AND HE APPLIED FULL THROTTLE AND ATTEMPTED TO MAINTAIN ALTITUDE WITH COLLECTIVE. THE ROTOR RPM BEGAN TO DECAY AND HE ATTEMPTED TO ACCELERATE TO ATTAIN TRANSLATIONAL LIFT. HE DID NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT ALTITUDE IN WHICH TO RECOVER SO HE ATTEMPTED TO LAND IN THE BOTTOM OF THE RAVINE. DURING THE DESCENT THE ROTOR BLADES STRUCK THE RAVINE'S WALLS. THE PILOT NOTED A 3 TO 4 KNOT TAILWIND AFTER THE CRASH.

Brief of Accident (Continued)

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WHITTIER, AK

Aircraft Reg No. N2622M

Time (Local): 14:30 ADT

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT

Phase of Operation: HOVER

Findings

1. (C) ROTOR RPM - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

2. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - RAVINE
3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - TAILWIND

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

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows.
THE PILOT'S FAILURE TO MAINTAIN ROTOR RPM. FACTORS WERE THE RAVINE AND THE TAILWIND.