



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Office of Research and Engineering
Washington, DC

Injury Factual Report

January 17, 2018

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Chief Medical Officer
NTSB

A. ACCIDENT: ANC16LA022; Juneau, AK

On May 5, 2016, about 1408 Alaska daylight time, an Airbus AS350B2 helicopter, N194EH, collided with snow-covered terrain while on approach to a remote landing site on the Norris Glacier, about 15 miles northeast of Juneau, Alaska. The commercial pilot sustained serious injuries, and the helicopter sustained substantial damage. The helicopter was registered to, and operated by, Era Helicopters LLC, Lake Charles, Louisiana, as a visual flight rules (VFR) flight under the provisions of 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 135 on-demand charter flight. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed at the time of the accident, and company flight following procedures were in effect. The flight originated from the operator's base of operations in Juneau, about 1315.

B. GROUP IDENTIFICATION

No group was formed to prepare this report.

C. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

Purpose

This investigation was performed to document the pilot's injuries.

Methods

The pilot's post accident medical treatment records were reviewed. Injuries to the 39 year old male pilot are described in Table 1, below.

Table 1. Pilot's Injuries

Pilot Injury Description
Fracture, left scapula, body and spine, non-displaced
Hemopneumothorax, left
Tension pneumothorax, left
Pulmonary contusions, left
Fractures, left posterior ribs 6-12 with flail chest (ribs 8-10)
Pulmonary laceration, right
Aortic injury; intimal flap, mid-descending thoracic aorta with periaortic hematoma
Infarction, left kidney, inferior lateral area
Splenic contusion
Fractures, left transverse processes T8-L4, displaced
Fractures, spinous processes, T8-L2

D. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The 39 year old male pilot suffered a number of injuries to his left side as a result of this accident including fractures of multiple left ribs and the left scapula, multiple left sided transverse and spinous process fractures, as well as injuries to the left lung, left kidney, and spleen, and an intimal tear in the mid-descending aorta.