



The National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Aviation Safety
Central Region
Memorandum for the Record
Pilot Statement
CEN15LA439
Alice, Texas
September 14, 2015

Monday morning, I decided to take the helicopter up and practice some emergency maneuvers to stay fresh, since I haven't been flying much lately. Being a fellow pilot and a good friend, I invited Vance Fisher along for the ride to add a little extra ballast to the helicopter. The first two autorotations were great. I entered at 2,000 ft agl and power recovered at about 200 feet. On the third attempt, I decided to maneuver the helicopter to a specific spot on the ground flare, then terminate in a hover. Everything went great until the flare. There was a vibration in the rotor and instantly I tried to power recover, but the power wasn't there. At this point, my only option was to level the helicopter and use what collective I had left to soften the landing. Upon contacting the ground, the helicopter separated from the skids and rolled on its side. Vance quickly started shutting off power and the fuel. We then exited the helicopter unharmed.

Jason F. Walters

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[REDACTED]

Alexander Lemishko

[REDACTED]

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