



Shaun Williams
Senior Aviation Accident Investigator
Office of Aviation Safety - Central Region

Date: 07/19/2022
Subject: CEN22LA323, N6BU, Verona, Illinois
Contact: Brandon Nau, Pilot-in-Command

On July 18, 2022, about 1849 central daylight time, a Bell 206B3 helicopter, N6BU, sustained substantial damage when it was involved in an accident near Verona, Illinois. The pilot was uninjured. The helicopter was operated as a Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 137 aerial application flight.

Mr. Nau was contacted on July 19 to discuss the accident from the day before. During the call, he stated that after lifting off from the truck, he received a low rotor RPM alert, entered an auto-rotation and landed hard in the field. During the landing the main rotor blade severed the tailboom of the helicopter. He stated that he had been flying since about 1500 that day and had about 25-30 gallons of fuel on board and 80 gallons of product. He said that he did not do anything from any other takeoff during the day.

When asked if there was any chance he had drooped the rotor on takeoff due to the weight of the helicopter, he stated that he did not think he had.

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