

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

NTSB Form 6120.1

PILOT/OPERATOR AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT/INCIDENT REPORT

Email the pilot/operator aircraft accident/incident report to the investigator-in-charge of your accident/incident. If email is not available, mail the report per the instructions below.

If your accident/incident occurred in Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, or the US Virgin Islands, send the form to: NTSB, ERA, 45065 Riverside Parkway, Ashburn, VA 20147.

If your accident/incident occurred in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, or New Mexico, send the form to: NTSB, CEN, 4760 Oakland Street, Suite 500, Denver, CO 80239.

If your accident/incident occurred in Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, California, Hawaii, or the territories of Guam or American Samoa, send the form to: NTSB, WPR, 505 South 336th Street, Suite 540, Federal Way, WA 98003.

If your accident/incident occurred in Alaska, send the form to: NTSB, ANC, 222 West 7th Avenue, Room 216, Box 11, Anchorage, AK 99513.

Rules pertaining to notification of aircraft accidents and incidents, as well as overdue aircraft are found in 49 *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 830 http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title49/49cfr830_main_02.tpl. These rules state the authority of the NTSB, define accidents, incidents, injuries, and other terms, and provide procedures for initial and immediate notification of accidents and incidents by aircraft pilots/operators.

A. APPLICABILITY

The pilot/operator of an aircraft shall send a report to the office listed above, based on accident/incident location; immediate notification is required by 49 CFR 830.5(a). **The report shall be filed within 10 days after an accident for which notification is required by Section 830.5, or after 7 days if an overdue aircraft is still missing.**

An aircraft accident, as defined in 49 CFR 830.2, is determined as an occurrence that involves a fatality or serious injury, or substantial damage to the aircraft. For occurrences that do not involve a fatality, the determination that the occurrence is an accident can be appealed by writing to the Director, Office of Aviation Safety, NTSB, 490 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20594.

INSTRUCTIONS TO PILOTS/OPERATORS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

It is necessary that ALL questions on this report be answered completely and accurately.

If more space is needed, continue on a blank sheet of paper.

Nearest City/Place: Use the name of the nearest community in the state where the accident/incident occurred.

Date/Time: Indicate the date and local time of the event. Be sure to indicate the time zone.

Phase of Operation: Indicate the phase of operation during which the accident/incident occurred.

Aircraft Information: Enter aircraft make and model information as indicated on the aircraft registration certificate, including series. If the involved aircraft is certified as "amateur-built," include the name of the producer of the kit or plans, unless an NTSB employee instructs otherwise.

Maximum Gross Weight: Enter the certificated maximum gross weight for the aircraft involved in the occurrence. This should be the same as the maximum gross weight indicated on the aircraft weight and balance documents.

Engine: Enter engine make and model information as indicated on the engine data plate.

The NTSB uses this form for aircraft accident prevention activities and for statistical purposes. NTSB regulations (49 CFR Part 830) require that **ALL** questions be answered completely and accurately. Completion of this form will take approximately 60 minutes. The NTSB does not guarantee the privacy of any information provided in this form. You need not complete this form unless it displays a valid OMB control number, in accordance with 5 C.F.R. § 1320.5(b), which applies to this collection of information.

B. DEFINITIONS

1. "Aircraft Accident" means an occurrence associated with the operation of an aircraft that takes place between the time any person boards the aircraft with the intention of flight and all such persons have disembarked, and in which any person suffers death, or serious injury, or in which the aircraft receives substantial damage. For purposes of this form, the definition of "aircraft accident" includes "unmanned aircraft accident," as defined at 49 CFR 830.2.

2. "Substantial Damage" means damage or failure that adversely affects the structural strength, performance or flight characteristics of the aircraft, and that would normally require major repair or replacement of the affected component. NOTE: Engine failure or damage limited to an engine if only one engine fails or is damaged, bent fairing or cowlings, dented skin, small puncture holes in the skin or fabric, ground damage to rotor or propeller blades, and damage to landing gear, wheels, tires, flaps, engine accessories, brakes, or wing tips are not considered "substantial damage" for purposes of this report.

3. "Operator" means any person who causes or authorizes the operation of an aircraft, such as the owner, lessee, or bailee of an aircraft.

4. "Fatal Injury" means any injury that results in death within thirty (30) days of the accident.

5. "Serious Injury" means any injury that (1) requires hospitalization for more than 48 hours, commencing within 7 days from the date the injury was received; (2) results in a fracture of any bone (except simple fracture of fingers, toes, or nose); (3) causes severe hemorrhages, nerve, muscle, or tendon damage; (4) involves injury to any internal organ; or (5) involves second- or third-degree burns, or any burns affecting more than 5 percent of the body surface.

Type of Fire Extinguishing System: If a fire extinguishing system was used to fight an aircraft fire, specify the type(s) of extinguishing system(s) used. Examples include handheld extinguisher, engine fire bottle, cargo/baggage compartment fire suppression system, or airport emergency ground equipment.

Owner/Operator Information: Enter the owner information as shown on the registration certificate. Commercial operators, enter the operator information, including "doing business as" when applicable, as shown on the operator certificate.

Revenue Sightseeing Flight: Indicate whether the accident aircraft was conducting **revenue** sightseeing operations under 14 CFR Part 91 at the time of the accident.

Air Medical Flight: Indicate whether the accident flight was being conducted for the purpose of carrying medical personnel, patient(s), or organs.

Public Aircraft: Federal, state or local government flight operations such as official travel, law-enforcement, low-level observation, aerial application, firefighting, search and rescue, biological or geological resource management, or aeronautical research. Indicate whether the flight was conducted by the armed forces, federal, state, or local government.

Purpose of Flight: 14 CFR Parts 91, 103, 133, 136, and 137: Indicate the type of operation that was being conducted at the time of the occurrence using the following definitions:

AERIAL APPLICATION--Operations using an aircraft to perform aerial application or dispersion of any substance. Examples include agricultural, health, forestry, cloud seeding, firefighting, insect control, etc.

AERIAL OBSERVATION--These flights include aerial mapping/photography, patrol, search and rescue, hunting, highway traffic advisory, ranching, surveillance, oil and mineral exploration, criminal pursuit, fish spotting, etc.

AIR DROP--Aerial operations, other than aerial application, that are intended to release items in flight.

AIR RACE/SHOW--Includes any flight operations conducted as part of an organized air race or public demonstration.

BUSINESS--includes all personal flying without a paid professional crew for reasons associated with furthering a business, including transportation to and from business meetings or work. This does not include corporate/executive operations, air taxi, or commuter operations.

EXECUTIVE/CORPORATE--Company flying with a paid, professional crew.

FERRY--Non-revenue flight under a special flight or "ferry" permit. Refer to 14 CFR 21.197 for details of special flight permit issuance.

FLIGHT TEST--Flight for the purpose of investigating the flight characteristics of an aircraft/aircraft component or evaluating an applicant for a pilot certificate or rating.

INSTRUCTIONAL--Flying while under the supervision of a flight instructor or receiving air carrier training. Personal proficiency flight operations and personal flight reviews, as required by federal air regulations, are excluded.

OTHER WORK USE--Miscellaneous flight operations conducted for compensation or hire such as construction work (not 14 CFR Part 135 operation), parachuting, aerial advertising, towing gliders, etc.

PERSONAL--Flying for personal reasons (excludes business transportation) including pleasure or personal transportation. This also includes practice or proficiency flights performed under flight instructor supervision and not part of an approved flight training program.

POSITIONING--Non-revenue flight conducted for the primary purpose of relocating the aircraft. Examples include moving the aircraft to a maintenance facility or to load passengers or cargo etc.

UNKNOWN--Use only if the primary purpose of flight is not known.

Other Aircraft--Collision: For all accidents involving a collision with another aircraft, including parked aircraft, check "Collision with other aircraft" under Basic Information and complete this section indicating details about the OTHER aircraft involved in the collision.

Airport Information: Complete this section if the accident/incident occurred on approach, landing, takeoff, departure, or within 3 statute miles of an airport. Please refer to the FAA Airport/Facility Directory or other official source for airport information.

Airport Identifier: Provide the official 3 or 4 character airport identifier number.

Runway: Indicate the number of the runway used, including L, R, or C if applicable.

Runway/Landing Surface: Indicate the type of intended runway/landing surface (do not indicate surface conditions). If the surface type was mixed, check all that apply.

Condition of Runway/Landing Surface: Indicate the condition of the intended runway/landing surface. If multiple conditions existed at the time of the accident, check all that apply.

Weather Information at the Accident/Incident Site: Indicate the weather conditions reported at the accident/incident site at the time of occurrence. If no weather reporting was available for the accident/incident site, indicate the reported conditions at the nearest reporting site. Specify the weather reporting site identifier, the observation time, and distance from the accident/incident.

Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition: Indicate the height above ground level of the lowest cloud condition present at the time of the accident/incident and whether coverage was reported as few, scattered, broken or overcast. Also indicate the height above ground level and coverage of the lowest cloud ceiling present at the time of the accident/incident (reported as broken or overcast).

NOTAMS (D and FDC), AIRMETs, SIGMETs, PIREPs: Describe all NOTAMS (distant (D) or Flight Data Center (FDC), if known), AIRMETs, SIGMETs, and PIREPs in effect near the accident/incident.

Flight Crewmember Information: Indicate the category that best describes the capacity served by this flight crewmember at the time of the accident. The designators "Flight Crewmember 1" and "Flight Crewmember 2" do not refer to a specific pilot position or responsibility. If more than one pilot is aboard, they may be entered in any order and their capacity entered as appropriate.

Degree of Injury: See Definitions on the top half of Page 1 of the instructions. Minor injury is not defined. If an injury does not meet the criteria for another injury category, select Minor.

Date of Last Flight Review or Equivalent: Enter the date of the most recent flight review, or equivalent, completed by this pilot. Refer to 14 CFR 61.56 for accepted equivalents.

Type Ratings: List all type ratings on the pilot certificate. If the pilot holds no type ratings indicate "none." If the pilot holds a pilot certificate other than student and was flying an aircraft requiring an endorsement, enter the type and date of any logbook endorsement(s) for that aircraft. See 14 CFR 61 for examples of required endorsements.

Student Endorsements: If the pilot holds a student pilot certificate, enter all solo endorsements and dates on the student pilot certificate.

Flight Time: Complete the flight time matrix. Solo flight time should be included as "Pilot-in-Command (PIC)" and all dual flight instruction given should be included as "Time as Instructor."

Additional Flight Crewmembers: Complete this section if there were more than two required flight crewmembers on the aircraft. This also includes a check airman performing official duties but does not include cabin crew. State the capacity served by each included crewmember at the time of the accident.

Passenger(s)/Other Personnel: Enter identification and injury severity information for all passengers, cabin crew, and other personnel involved in the accident. See Page 1 of the instructions for the official definition of injury levels.

Several questions throughout the form allow for multiple responses; when appropriate, choose all responses that apply.

These instructions only pertain to major issue areas covered by NTSB Form 6120.1 Pilot/Operator Aircraft Accident/Incident Report. For additional definitions of questions and responses, please refer to www.ntsbgov.

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD PILOT/OPERATOR AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT/INCIDENT REPORT

This form to be used for reporting civil and public aircraft accidents and incidents

BASIC INFORMATION

Accident/Incident Location

Nearest City/Place: KDRO Durango La plata county airport State: CO

ZIP: 81301 Country: USA

Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

(Enter in decimal degrees or degrees:minutes:seconds)

Accident/Incident Date/Time

Date: 11/23/2022 Local Time: 1307
mm/dd/yyyy

Time Zone: MST

Collision with Other Aircraft: ☐ Midair ☐ On-ground ☒ None

AIRCRAFT INFORMATION

Registration Number: N668M

Manufacturer: Hughes

Model: 369HS

Serial Number: 310312S

Year of Manufacture: 1971

Amateur-Built: ☐ Yes ☒ No If Yes: ☐ Kit/Plans ☐ Original Design Make: _____

☐ IFR-Equipped and Certified

☐ Commercial Space Flight

☐ Unmanned Aircraft

Maximum Gross Weight: 2550 lbs

Weight at Time of Accident/Incident: 2250 lbs

Number of Seats: 4 Flight Crew Seats: 1+ Dual coi

Cabin Crew Seats: _____ Passenger Seats: 3

Number of Engines: 1

Category of Aircraft

- ☐ Airplane
- ☐ Balloon
- ☐ Blimp/Dirigible
- ☐ Glider
- ☐ Gyroplane
- ☒ Helicopter
- ☐ Powered Lift
- ☐ Rocket
- ☐ Ultralight
- ☐ Unknown

Type of Airworthiness Certificate

(Check all that apply)

Standard

☒ Normal

☐ Aerobatic

☐ Balloon

☐ Commuter

☐ Transport

☐ Utility

Special

☐ Restricted

☐ Limited

☐ Provisional

☐ Special Flight

☐ Experimental

☐ Special Light-Sport

☐ Experimental Light-Sport

☐ Certificate of Authorization or Waiver (COA)

☐ None

☐ Unknown

Landing Gear

(Check all that apply)

☐ Retractable

☐ Tricycle

☐ Amphibian

☐ Emergency Float

☐ Float

☐ Hull

☐ Other Launch/Recovery System

☐ None

☐ Tailwheel

☒ High Skid

☐ Skid

☐ Ski

☐ Ski/Wheel

☐ Unknown

Engine Type (Select one)

☐ Reciprocating

☒ Turbo Shaft

☐ Turbo Prop

☐ Turbo Jet

☐ Turbo Fan

☐ Electric

☐ Liquid Rocket

☐ Solid Rocket

☐ Hybrid Rocket

☐ None

☐ Unknown

Fuel System Type (Reciprocating)

☐ Carburetor

☐ Fuel-Injected

Engine	Engine Manufacturer	Engine Model/Series	Manufacturer's Serial Number	Date of Mfg. mm/dd/yyyy	Rated Power ☒ Horsepower or ☐ lbs of Thrust	Total Time (hours)	Time Since: Inspection (hours)	Overhaul (hours)
Eng. 1	CAE8318121	250-c20	310312S	1-15-79	400	13907.8	32.1	1207.4
Eng. 2								
Eng. 3								
Eng. 4								

Last Inspection Type

☒ 100-Hour ☐ Continuous Airworthiness

☐ AAIP ☐ Conditional Inspection

☐ Annual ☐ Unknown

Date Last Inspection: 10/25/2022
mm/dd/yyyy

Airframe Total Time: 9806.4 hrs

hours measured at (Select one)

☒ Last Inspection ☐ Time of Accident/Incident

Type of Maintenance Program (Select one)

☐ Annual

☐ Conditional (Amateur-built only)

☒ Manufacturer's Inspection Program

☐ Other Approved Inspection Program (AAIP)

☐ Continuous Airworthiness

☐ Other, specify: _____

Description of Fire Extinguishing System

☒ None

☐ Specify: _____

Propeller 1

☐ Fixed Pitch

☐ Controllable Pitch

☐ Ground Adjustable

Manufacturer: _____

Model: _____

Propeller 2

☐ Fixed Pitch

☐ Controllable Pitch

☐ Ground Adjustable

Manufacturer: _____

Model: _____

ELT Installed: ☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes:

ELT Manufacturer: Artex

Model or Part No.: _____

TSO No.: ☐ OC91 (121.5 MHz) ☐ OC91a (121.5 MHz)

☐ OC126 (406 MHz)

Was ELT still mounted in aircraft? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Was ELT still connected to antenna? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Did ELT Activate? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If activated:

Did ELT Aid in Locating Aircraft: ☐ Yes ☒ No

If not activated:

Indicate Reason: ☐ Impact Damage

☐ Fire Damage

☐ Battery Expired/Damaged

☐ Unknown

Additional Equipment (Check all that apply)

☒ ADS-B

☐ Airframe Parachute

☐ Angle of Attack Indicator

☐ Autopilot

☐ Data Recorder

☐ Electronic Flight Bag or Handheld Device

☐ Electronic Multifunction Display

☐ Electronic Primary Flight Display

☐ Handheld GPS

☐ Heads Up Display

☐ Onboard Weather

☐ Satellite Tracking Device

☐ Stall Warning System

☐ Video Recording Device

☐ Other, Specify: _____

OWNER/OPERATOR INFORMATION**Registered Aircraft Owner**Name: B. LairdCity: DurangoFractional Ownership Aircraft: ☐ Yes ☒ NoState: CO ZIP: 81301Country: USA**Operator of Aircraft**☐ Same As Registered Owner☒ Same Address as Registered OwnerName: Colorado Highland Helicopters

City: _____

Doing Business As: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Air Carrier/Operator Designator (4 Character Code): 8COA

Country: _____

Operating Certificates Held

(Check all that apply)

- ☐ None
☐ Flag Carrier Operating Certificate (FAR 121)
☐ Supplemental
☐ Air Cargo
☐ Foreign Air Carriers (FAR 129)
☒ Rotorcraft External Load (FAR 133)
☒ Commuter Air Carrier (FAR 135)
☐ On-Demand Air Taxi (FAR 135)
☐ Commercial Air Tour (FAR 136)
☐ Agricultural Aircraft (FAR 137)
☐ Pilot School (FAR 141)
☐ Certificate of Authorization or Waiver (COA)
☐ Commercial Space Transportation
Experimental Permit
☐ Commercial Space Transportation License
☐ Other Operator of Large Aircraft

Regulation Flight Conducted Under

- ☒ FAR 91 ☐ FAR 129 ☐ FAR 415
☐ FAR 103 ☐ FAR 133 ☐ FAR 431
☐ FAR 121 ☐ FAR 135 ☐ FAR 435
☐ FAR 125 ☐ FAR 137 ☐ FAR 437
- ☐ FAR 91 Special Flight
☐ Non-US, Commercial
☐ Non-US, Non-commercial
- ☐ Public Aircraft (Select one)
☐ Armed Forces
☐ Federal
☐ State
☐ Local
☐ Unknown

Revenue Operation for FAR 121, 125, 129, 135

(Select one for each group)

- ☐ Scheduled or Commuter ☐ Domestic
☐ Non-Scheduled or Air Taxi ☐ International
- ☐ Passenger
☐ Cargo
☐ Mail Contract Only

Purpose of Flight for FAR 91, 103, 133, 137

(Select one)

- ☐ Aerial Application ☐ Firefighting ☒ Unknown
☐ Aerial Observation ☐ Flight Test
☐ Air Drop ☐ Glider Tow
☐ Air Race/Show ☐ Instructional
☐ Banner Tow ☐ Other Work Use
☐ Business ☐ Personal
☐ Executive/Corporate ☐ Positioning
☐ External Load ☐ Skydiving
☐ Ferry

Revenue Sightseeing Flight☐ Yes ☒ No**Air Medical Flight**☐ Yes ☒ No**AIRPORT INFORMATION (Fill in if accident/incident occurred on approach, landing, takeoff, departure, or within 3 miles of an airport)**Airport Name: Durango- LaPlata CountyDistance From Airport Center: 1/2 smAirport Identifier: KDRO

Direction From Airport: _____ degrees true

Proximity to Airport: ☐ Off Airport/Airstrip ☒ On Airport/Airstrip ☐ N/AAirport Elevation: 6689 ft. msl**Runway Information**Runway ID: 21 (L/R/C) Length: 9201 ft Width: 150 ft**Runway/Landing Surface (Check all that apply)**

- ☒ Asphalt ☐ Grass/Turf ☐ Macadam ☐ Water
☐ Concrete ☐ Gravel ☐ Metal/Wood
☐ Dirt ☐ Ice ☐ Snow ☐ Unknown

Condition of Runway/Landing Surface (Check all that apply)

- ☒ Dry ☐ Snow-Compacted ☐ Water-Calm
☐ Holes ☐ Snow-Crusted ☐ Water-Choppy
☐ Ice Covered ☐ Snow-Dry ☐ Water-Glassy
☐ Rough ☐ Snow-Wet ☐ Wet
☐ Rubber Deposits ☐ Soft
☐ Slush-Covered ☐ Vegetation ☐ Unknown

Approach/Departure Segment (Select one)

- ☐ Taxi ☐ VFR Departure ☐ On Instrument Approach ☐ Downwind ☐ Low Approach
☐ Takeoff ☐ IFR Departure Procedure/Clearance ☒ Landing ☐ Base ☐ Go Around
☐ Initial Climb ☐ Aborted Landing (after touchdown)
☐ Crosswind ☐ Unknown

IFR Approach (Check all that apply)

- ☐ None
- ☐ ADF/NDB ☐ PAR ☐ MLS ☐ Practice
☐ SDF ☐ Sidestep ☐ LDA ☐ GPS
☐ VOR/TVOR ☐ ILS ☐ ASR
☐ VOR/DME ☐ Localizer Only ☐ Visual
☐ TACAN ☐ LOC-back course ☐ Contact
☐ RNAV ☐ Circling
☐ Unknown

VFR Approach (Check all that apply)

- ☐ None
- ☐ Traffic Pattern ☐ Stop and Go
☐ Straight-In ☐ Touch and Go
☐ Valley/Terrain Following ☒ Simulated Forced Landing
☐ Go Around ☐ Forced Landing
☐ Full Stop ☐ Precautionary Landing
☐ Unknown

Certificate Number:

[illegible]

Available	Used
☐ None	☐ None
☐ Lap only	☐ Lap only
☐ 3-point	☐ 3-point
☒ 4-point	☒ 4-point
☐ 5-point	☐ 5-point
☐ Unknown	☐ Unknown

☒ Not Installed
☐ Installed
☐ Not Deployed
☐ Deployed
☐ Unknown

☐ None
 ☐ Flight Instructor
 ☒ Commercial
 ☐ US Military

☐ Private
 ☐ Recreational
 ☐ Airline Transport
 ☐ Foreign

☐ Student
 ☐ Sport
 ☐ Flight Engineer

☐ None
 ☐ Class 3
☐ Class 1
 ☐ Driver's License (Sport Pilot only)
☒ Class 2
 ☐ Unknown

☒ Without limitations/waivers ☐ Unknown
☐ With limitations/waivers ☐ N/A
☐ Special Issuance

mm/dd/yyyy

[illegible]

ADDITIONAL FLIGHT CREWMEMBERS (Exclusive of cabin crew, complete the following information)						
Crew Name and Address				Seat Occupied		Injury
First Name: _____ City of Residence: _____ Middle Initial: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Last Name: _____ Country: _____				☐ Left ☐ Front ☐ Center ☐ Rear ☐ Right ☐ Single ☐ Unknown ☐ Unknown		☐ None ☐ Minor ☐ Serious ☐ Fatal ☐ Unknown
Pilot Certificate(s) (Check all that apply) ☐ None ☐ Private ☐ Student ☐ Flight Instructor ☐ Recreational ☐ Sport ☐ Commercial ☐ Airline Transport ☐ Flight Engineer ☐ US Military ☐ Foreign				Restraint Type: Available ☐ None ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown Used ☐ None ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown		Inflatable Restraints ☐ Not Installed ☐ Installed ☐ Not Deployed ☐ Deployed ☐ Unknown
Type Rating/Endorsement for Accident/Incident Aircraft? ☐ Yes ☐ No		Total Flight Time at the Time of this Accident/Incident: _____ hrs				
Crew Name and Address				Seat Occupied		Injury
First Name: _____ City of Residence: _____ Middle Initial: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Last Name: _____ Country: _____				☐ Left ☐ Front ☐ Center ☐ Rear ☐ Right ☐ Single ☐ Unknown ☐ Unknown		☐ None ☐ Minor ☐ Serious ☐ Fatal ☐ Unknown
Pilot Certificate(s) (Check all that apply) ☐ None ☐ Private ☐ Student ☐ Flight Instructor ☐ Recreational ☐ Sport ☐ Commercial ☐ Airline Transport ☐ Flight Engineer ☐ US Military ☐ Foreign				Restraint Type: Available ☐ None ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown Used ☐ None ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown		Inflatable Restraints ☐ Not Installed ☐ Installed ☐ Not Deployed ☐ Deployed ☐ Unknown
Type Rating/Endorsement for Accident/Incident Aircraft? ☐ Yes ☐ No		Total Flight Time at the Time of this Accident/Incident: _____ hrs				
PASSENGER(S) / OTHER PERSONNEL (Include cabin crew; continue on separate sheet if necessary)						
Name and Address		Seat	Injury	Restraint Type		Inflatable Restraints
First Name: _____ City : _____ Middle Initial: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Last Name: _____ Country: _____ ☐ Crew ☐ Passenger ☐ Other		☒ Left ☐ Center ☐ Right ☐ Unknown Row: _____	☒ None ☐ Minor ☐ Serious ☐ Fatal ☐ Unknown	Available ☐ None ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☒ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown	Used ☐ None ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown	☒ Not Installed ☐ Installed ☐ Not Deployed ☐ Deployed ☐ Unknown ☐ Under 5 years <i>If Under 5,</i> ☐ Child Restraint ☐ Lap-Held ☐ Unknown
First Name: _____ City : _____ Middle Initial: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Last Name: _____ Country: _____ ☐ Crew ☐ Passenger ☐ Other		☐ Left ☐ Center ☐ Right ☐ Unknown Row: _____	☐ None ☐ Minor ☐ Serious ☐ Fatal ☐ Unknown	Available ☐ None ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown	Used ☐ None ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown	☐ Not Installed ☐ Installed ☐ Not Deployed ☐ Deployed ☐ Unknown ☐ Under 5 years <i>If Under 5,</i> ☐ Child Restraint ☐ Lap-Held ☐ Unknown
First Name: _____ City : _____ Middle Initial: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Last Name: _____ Country: _____ ☐ Crew ☐ Passenger ☐ Other		☐ Left ☐ Center ☐ Right ☐ Unknown Row: _____	☐ None ☐ Minor ☐ Serious ☐ Fatal ☐ Unknown	Available ☐ None ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown	Used ☐ None ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown	☐ Not Installed ☐ Installed ☐ Not Deployed ☐ Deployed ☐ Unknown ☐ Under 5 years <i>If Under 5,</i> ☐ Child Restraint ☐ Lap-Held ☐ Unknown
First Name: _____ City : _____ Middle Initial: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Last Name: _____ Country: _____ ☐ Crew ☐ Passenger ☐ Other		☐ Left ☐ Center ☐ Right ☐ Unknown Row: _____	☐ None ☐ Minor ☐ Serious ☐ Fatal ☐ Unknown	Available ☐ None ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown	Used ☐ None ☐ Lap Only ☐ 3-point ☐ 4-point ☐ 5-point ☐ Unknown	☐ Not Installed ☐ Installed ☐ Not Deployed ☐ Deployed ☐ Unknown ☐ Under 5 years <i>If Under 5,</i> ☐ Child Restraint ☐ Lap-Held ☐ Unknown

FLIGHT ITINERARY INFORMATION

Last Departure Point Airport ID: <u>00C</u> City: <u>Durango</u> State: <u>Colorado</u> Country: <u>USA</u>	Time of Departure Time: <u>1230</u> Time Zone: <u>MST</u>	Destination Airport ID: <u>KDRO</u> City: <u>Durango</u> State: <u>Colorado</u> Country: <u>USA</u>	Type Flight Plan Filed ☒ None ☐ VFR/IFR ☐ Company VFR ☐ IFR ☐ Military VFR ☐ Unknown ☐ VFR Activated? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown
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Type of ATC Clearance/Service (Check all that apply) ☒ None ☐ Special VFR ☐ Special IFR ☐ VFR Flight Following ☐ Cruise ☐ VFR ☐ IFR ☐ VFR On Top ☐ Traffic Advisory ☐ Unknown / NA			
Airspace where the accident/incident occurred (Check all that apply) ☐ Class A ☐ Class G ☐ Military Operations Area (MOA) ☐ Special ☐ Class B ☐ Demo Area ☐ Airport Advisory Area ☐ Air Traffic Control Area ☐ Class C ☐ Warning Area ☐ Jet Training Area ☐ Unknown ☐ Class D ☐ Prohibited Area ☐ TRSA ☒ Class E ☐ Restricted Area ☐ FAR 93			Altitude of In-Flight Occurrence: <u>0</u> ft msl

WEATHER INFORMATION AT THE ACCIDENT/INCIDENT SITE

Source of Pilot Weather Information (Check all that apply) ☐ National Weather Service ☐ Company ☐ Flight Service Station ☐ Military ☐ TV/Radio ☐ Internet ☒ Automated Report ☐ None ☐ Commercial Weather Service (DUATS) ☐ Unknown ☐ On-Board Weather	Weather Observation Facility Facility ID: <u>KDRO</u> Observation Time: <u>1310</u> Time Zone: <u>MST</u> Distance from Accident Site: <u>0</u> nm Direction from Accident Site: _____ degrees true
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Basic Conditions ☒ VMC ☐ IMC ☐ Unknown	Light Condition ☐ Dawn ☐ Dusk ☐ Dark Night ☐ Unknown ☒ Day ☐ Night ☐ Bright Night
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Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition ☒ Clear ☐ Thin Broken ☐ Few ☐ Thin Overcast ☐ Partial Obscuration ☐ Unknown ☐ Scattered Lowest Cloud Condition Height _____ ft agl	Ceiling ☒ None (Clear) ☐ Obscured ☐ Broken ☐ Indefinite ☐ Overcast ☐ Unknown Ceiling Height _____ ft agl	Temperature: _____ (C) or <u>43</u> (F) Dew Point: _____ (C) or <u>10</u> (F) Altimeter Setting: _____ in. Hg or _____ MB
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Wind Direction ☐ Variable -or- Direction: <u>220</u> degrees true	Wind Speed ☐ Calm ☐ Light and Variable -or- Speed: <u>13</u> kts	Wind Gusts ☐ Not Gusting -or- Speed: <u>20</u> kts	Visibility <u>10+</u> miles RVR: _____ feet RVV: _____ miles Density Altitude: _____ ft
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Intensity of Precipitation ☐ Light ☐ Moderate ☐ Heavy ☒ N/A ☐ Unknown	Type of Precipitation (Check all that apply) ☒ None ☐ Drizzle ☐ Freezing Rain ☐ Rain ☐ Ice Pellets ☐ Snow Shower ☐ Snow ☐ Snow Pellets ☐ Ice Pellets Shower ☐ Hail ☐ Snow Grains ☐ Freezing Drizzle ☐ Rain Showers ☐ Ice Crystals	Restriction to Visibility (Check all that apply) ☒ None ☐ Fog ☐ Blowing Dust ☐ Ground Fog ☐ Blowing Sand ☐ Haze ☐ Blowing Snow ☐ Ice Fog ☐ Blowing Spray ☐ Smoke ☐ Dust ☐ Unknown
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Icing Forecast <table> <tr> <th>Amount</th> <th>Type</th> </tr> <tr> <td>☒ None</td> <td>☐ N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ Trace</td> <td>☐ Rime</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ Light</td> <td>☐ Clear</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ Moderate</td> <td>☐ Mixed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ Severe</td> <td>☐ Unknown</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ Unknown</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Amount	Type	☒ None	☐ N/A	☐ Trace	☐ Rime	☐ Light	☐ Clear	☐ Moderate	☐ Mixed	☐ Severe	☐ Unknown	☐ Unknown		Icing Actual <table> <tr> <th>Amount</th> <th>Type</th> </tr> <tr> <td>☒ None</td> <td>☐ N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ Trace</td> <td>☐ Rime</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ Light</td> <td>☐ Clear</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ Moderate</td> <td>☐ Mixed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ Severe</td> <td>☐ Unknown</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ Unknown</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Amount	Type	☒ None	☐ N/A	☐ Trace	☐ Rime	☐ Light	☐ Clear	☐ Moderate	☐ Mixed	☐ Severe	☐ Unknown	☐ Unknown		Turbulence Type (Check all that apply) ☒ None ☐ Clear Air ☐ Terrain-Induced ☐ Convective Turbulence Severity ☐ Light ☐ Moderate ☐ Severe ☐ Extreme
Amount	Type																													
☒ None	☐ N/A																													
☐ Trace	☐ Rime																													
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☐ Unknown																														

NOTAMs (D and FDC), AIRMETs, SIGMETs, PIREPs in effect at the time of the accident/incident:

N/A

DAMAGE TO AIRCRAFT AND OTHER PROPERTY**Aircraft Damage**

- ☐ None ☐ Substantial
☐ Minor ☒ Destroyed
 ☐ Unknown

Aircraft Fire

- ☒ None ☐ Both Ground and In-Flight
☐ In-Flight ☐ Fire at Unknown Time
☐ On-Ground ☐ Unknown

Aircraft Explosion

- ☒ None ☐ Both Ground and In-Flight
☐ In-Flight ☐ Explosion at Unknown Time
☐ On-Ground ☐ Unknown

Description of Damage to Aircraft and Other Property *(Use additional sheet if necessary)*

Separation of the tail boom, tail section and tail rotor. Separation of all main rotor blades, rotor head was ground into the tarmac from engine running until emergency shutdown could be accomplished. broken left side skid struts.

NARRATIVE HISTORY OF FLIGHT *(Please type or print in ink)*

Describe what occurred in chronological order, including circumstances leading to and nature of accident/incident. Describe terrain and include wreckage distribution sketch if pertinent. Attach extra sheets if needed. State departure time and location, services obtained, and intended destination. Provide as much detail as possible.

The intent of the incident flight was an examination of Trevor Walch who was applying for added category, helicopter private pilot privileges. Keith Edey was the designated pilot examiner. Following an oral exam and a supervised preflight the aircraft departed at about 1230. Following several of the required maneuvers, they proceeded to KDRO to continue. According to a phone conversation I had with Trevor on Friday 11/25/22; prior to flight, in anticipation of practice autorotations, both pilot and copilot throttle controls were actuated to the ground idle position to ensure proper operation and continued engine running. They then proceeded with some maneuvers near the base as I had observed before proceeding to KDRO. Then following a straight-in auto the examiner decided to demonstrate a 180 autorotation. Trevor stated that the examiner took controls following the "positive exchange". Keith proceeded to reenter the pattern, setup for a 180 auto to runway 21 and entered a practice autorotation. Keith brought the throttle to the ground idle position and the engine continued to run at idle throughout the maneuver as expected. Trevor stated to me that, "Keith's energy management was not as good as experienced throughout the training". He also stated that, "I felt we were descending too quickly and flared too low" as well as that Keith said "shit" in the flare and "we hit harder than any ground contact maneuver during training". Trevor had not been interviewed or asked for a sworn statement as of that date.

Immediately following the accident, Keith called my cellphone. I was at the base and Sierra saw that it was Keith calling. Sierra is an instructor employed by Colorado Highland Helicopters. Keith stated to me and Sierra overheard, "The auto wasn't going well, I tried to recover but could not get the RPM up in time and hit hard". Sierra went to give him a ride back to the base and he began changing his story. He mentioned multiple times that the auto looked very good and he set down very softly, that the auto was not "botched" but was as intended, and he decided to complete a full-down, and the gear subsequently failed.

Keith changed his initial statement and reiterated a story similar to what Sierra described to me when he got back to the base, stating that "the setup looked so good, I decided to continue to a full-down." The examiner should not be demonstrating an autorotation during an examination and he was not authorized to provide instruction in my aircraft. Although Keith had been authorized by Colorado Highland Helicopters to fly the aircraft as an examiner, he was certainly not authorized to perform "full-down" autorotations at any time.

My understanding is Keith made a statement while still at the airport soon after the incident to NTSB investigator Josh Lindberg, that he had difficulty with the autorotation and a hard landing. The aircraft was cleared by NTSB to be moved from the scene, then was "fully cleared" for transport and open examination, according to the airport manager Tony Vicari by end of day. I was personally allowed to access the wreckage to recover personal items and I am aware of others having access as well. At some later date unknown to me, Keith changed his story to Josh Lindberg and wanted to explore the idea that the skids had failed under a normal autorotation touchdown. When I reached out to Josh Monday 11/28 to get an understanding of the disposition of the investigation, Josh informed me that the investigation had been assigned to Alex Lemishko but stated that my concerns over a changing story were valid and that there were "oddities from the beginning" from Keith. Keith was not interviewed by the FAA as of the end of the day of the incident. My understanding is he had been contacted by the FAA some time Tuesday morning but had not made a sworn statement as of Tuesday morning 11/29/2022. To my knowledge, he was not screened for drugs or alcohol as of 11/29/22.

Photos taken from the scene are by Keith, he states that "he is an aircraft accident investigator" and was evidently allowed to investigate his own accident. The photos tend to emphasize the separation of the gear struts. The impact damage on the tail section and the impact marks left on the runway are not emphasized. Video evidence obtained from KDRO surveillance cameras and provided to both NTSB and FAA shows the aircraft descending at a higher than normal descent rate, at a very steep angle. The flare was late and the aircraft contacted the ground with a high nose-up attitude. The tail contacted the ground either before or concurrent with the rear portion of the gear. Separation of the tail section occurs with great force prior to the skids collapsing under extreme impact loads.

RECOMMENDATION (How could this accident/incident have been prevented?)

Operator/Owner Safety Recommendation

In future examiner-led operations, a clear plan of action for the flight will be required to be presented. Additionally, a written understanding of the maneuvers authorized for the examiner will be signed.

MECHANICAL MALFUNCTION/FAILURE (If more space is needed, continue on separate sheet)Was there Mechanical Malfunction/Failure? ☐ Yes ☒ No

(If yes, list the name of the part, manufacturer, part no., serial no., and describe the failure.)

**Total Time/Cycles
On Part**

_____ Hours

_____ Cycles

**Time Since This Part
Inspected/Overhauled**

_____ Hours

FUEL & SERVICES INFORMATION**Fuel on Board at Last Takeoff**

(Convert from pounds, as necessary)

44 _____ Gallons

Fuel Type☐ 80/87☐ 115/145☐ Jet B☐ Other, specify _____☐ 100 Low Lead☒ Jet A☐ JP8☐ 100/130☐ Jet A-1☐ Automotive**Other Services, if Any, Prior to Departure****EVACUATION OF AIRCRAFT**Was an emergency evacuation of the aircraft performed? ☐ Yes ☐ No**Method of Exit** – Describe how the occupants exited and how many occupants evacuated each location

Unknown

OTHER AIRCRAFT – COLLISION (If air or ground collision occurred, complete this section for other aircraft)**Aircraft Registration Number**

Manufacturer: _____**Model:** _____**Damage to Other Aircraft**☐ Destroyed☐ Minor☐ Substantial☐ None**Registered Owner of Other Aircraft**

Name: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Country: _____

Pilot of Other Aircraft

Name: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Country: _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Please type or print in ink)

Use this space if additional space is needed for any answers.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS COMPLETE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE

Date of this Report

11/30/2022

mm/dd/yyyy

Name of Pilot/Operator: _____

Signature: _____

-- or -- ☐ Check here to electronically sign this document

If a Person Other than Pilot/Operator is Filing Report

Name: Brandon Laird

Title: Aircraft and operation owner

Signature: _____

-- or -- ☒ Check here to electronically sign this document

FOR NTSB USE ONLY

NTSB Accident/Incident No.

CEN23LA048

Reviewed by NTSB Regional Office

CEN Region

Name of Investigator

Andrew Finne

Date Report Received

11/30/2022