



Joshua Lindberg  
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Aviation Safety - Central Region

**Date:** March 6, 2024

**Subject:** CEN24LA128, N191LL

**Contact:** Joseph Eble, accident pilot

On March 6, 2024, about 2140 eastern standard time, a Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH MBB-BK117 C-2 helicopter, N191LL, was substantially damaged when it was involved in an accident at Purdue University Airport (LAF), West Lafayette, Indiana. The pilot and two medical crew members were not injured. The flight was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 135 helicopter air ambulance flight.

In a phone conversation with Mr. Eble, he stated the following:

On 6 March 2024 at approximately 2139 after refueling operations I had the aircraft at 100% rotor with before takeoff check complete. I had called off with the communications center and was taxiing to the active runway and transitioning to forward fly over the taxiway at approximately 7-10 feet. While accelerating I felt a push against my feet from the pedals. The aircraft yawed right and then spun quickly. I descended with full left pedal applied but when the pedal was depressed it went right to the floor with no resistance and no effect. It was difficult to see because I was spinning and under NVGs in a marginally lit area, but I could see another aircraft on the ramp. I perceived my aircraft in a nose low attitude and put it down as level as I could by applying aft right cyclic. The left skid collapsed, and I performed a shutdown while making sure my crew was okay. Afterwards, I called the communications center to let them know we were alright, but the aircraft was down with damage.

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