

Statement of Occurrence

February 7th 2017

North Palm Beach County Airpark

I, Milan Pavlik, Private Pilot Certificate [REDACTED], describe the events of this occurrence to the best of my knowledge below.

On February 6th, I was taking a helicopter lesson with my flight instructor William Sewell and by the end of the lesson, I've inquired about auto-rotations while taxiing back to the hangar.

My instructor informed me that auto-rotations in the taxi are not taught, only a maneuver called Low RRPM during taxi which is a maneuver we had done at the beginning of the lesson. My instructor said he would go through the maneuver again.

While I was observing the maneuver and following along with the controls, my instructor reduced the throttle to gradually reduce the Rotor RPM. Then everything happened very quickly and my recollection is that the helicopter appeared to yaw left, skid a few times on the ground and started to yaw to the right.

Everything felt very quick and the next thing I recall is that the helicopter hit the ground and we ended up laying sideways in the grass. Luckily no one was hurt and we both were able to climb out of the helicopter.

Milan Pavlik