

Accident Report

Date: 18 November 2020

Time: Approximately 1230 EDT (1830Z)

Location: 200 meters North of Norfolk And Southern Railroad Whittaker Railyard in Austell, GA

Approximate coordinates: N3383.35 W08466.00

Aircraft: Robinson R44 Raven II, Registration N442JP, Serial 11960

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

I was training a student on the Private Pilot Task of "Pinnacle Approaches" and "Confined Area" approaches. For this training we used an open area just north of the railroad yard. I was familiar with the area. The first approach concluded with a safe go-around. The second approach ended with a high hover and a gradual step down to a 3-foot hover. I exchanged controls with my student and demonstrated how I would perform a "slope landing". The intention was to enter a low hover, examine the surface, then conclude the exercise with a simulated "Max Performance" takeoff.

While in the hover, the helicopter suddenly pitched up 10-20 degrees, followed by a pitch down of a like amount. The main rotor impacted the ground. The aircraft pivoted 180-degrees until it rested on its left side, facing North.

I pulled the mixture and turned off the Master Switch. I evacuated the helicopter by kicking out what remained of the Plexiglas windshield, then unbuckled my student and assisted him out the same exit. We moved a safe distance away. When we were sure that there was no fire hazard, I reached in and turned the Fuel Selector to OFF.

PIC

David Legeros

Certificate [REDACTED] ATP, ATP-H, CFI CFII MEI, CFI-H, CFII-H,

Type Ratings: B737 B744 B757, B767, B777

Medical First Class

BFR Airplane: June 2020

BFR Helicopter (R44): 09 November 2020