



Eric Alleyne
Air Safety Investigator
AS-Eastern Region Aviation

Date: 5/1/2024

Subject: ERA24LA203, accident examination notes

Contact: Tim McClain FAA inspector

During a telephone conversation with Inspector McClain, he stated that the flight instructor was conducting an instructional flight with the student at the time of the accident. He mentioned that during the downwind leg of the second pattern, the instructor was looking out for traffic and asked the student pilot to engage the carburetor heat. The student mistakenly pulled the mixture control, causing the engine to immediately quit. The low rotor warning system sounded, and the instructor took control of the helicopter, aiming to land in an open field

During the examination of the helicopter, it was noted that the main rotor had come into contact with the tail boom and severed it. The instructor informed the FAA that no one was hurt and that when he exited the helicopter, he noticed the pulled mixture control. The instructor did not report any other anomalies with the helicopter.