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Subject: ERA25LA046, Student pilot statement

Dana Gibson was interviewed by Telephone.

Dana stated she was a student pilot flying on her first cross county solo flight. She flew to the first airport about 30 minutes away and made 3 approaches to land before departing the airspace to fly to another airport and practice some more approaches. She stated about 15 minutes before the next airport, she was having problems getting the correct radio frequency dialed into the radio and she said the helicopter felt light on the controls. She stated the engine was running good and all engine controls were normal. She decided to make a precautionary landing in a field and set up for landing. during landing, she was focused on the instruments and did not look outside at the ground and did not notice the field was slopped. The skid contacted the ground sideways and spun the helicopter. The tail rotor made contact with the ground and helicopter rolled over on its side resulting in substantial damage to the tail rotor and boom. The student pilot stated that there were no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures that would have precluded normal operations.

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