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Date: 10/27/2025

Subject: ERA25LA380, FAA accident event summary

Contact: Bradford Holland, FAA/FSDO

The FAA stated that a UH-1D helicopter experienced a tail and tail rotor strike during a repositioning flight conducted at a public-use airport. The FAA reported that the event was initially brought to its attention through a hotline notification.

According to the FAA, while the helicopter was being relocated from one section of the airport to another, the pilot encountered heavy vertical vibration. The vibration was attributed in part to surface wind gusts measured at approximately 30 knots. The FAA further stated that additional collective oscillation occurred due to the pilot's limited experience in the helicopter type and difficulty maintaining proper collective control.

The FAA reported that the pilot forced the helicopter to the ground, resulting in the tail rotor contacting the concrete ramp and separating from the airframe.

The FAA also stated that the individual operating the helicopter did not hold the required rotorcraft certificate. The helicopter was certificated in the experimental exhibition category, and the operating limitations require the operator to hold a valid rotorcraft rating.

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