

National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Research and Engineering

Washington, DC 20594



ERA25MA171

SAFETY RESEARCH GROUP (RE-10)

Statistical Review

October 30, 2025

ACCIDENT

Location: Jersey City, NJ
Date: April 10, 2025
Time: 1515, EDT
Vehicle: Bell 206L-4

SAFETY RESEARCH GROUP (RE-10)

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BACKGROUND

The AS-40 group chairman submitted a data request to the Safety Research Division to identify in our database the number of helicopter accidents caused by bird strikes since October 2022, categorized by fatal and nonfatal accidents.

DATA AND METHODS

To complete this request, queries were run in both Microsoft Access ("SAFTI_Prod_AS") and CAROL. Both searches returned identical results, yielding a **total of 18 helicopter accidents investigated by the NTSB since 2009**, and a **total of 8 accidents investigated by the NTSB since October 2022**.

The CAROL query has been saved and can be retrieved here: [Data Request for ERA25MA171: Bird Strike Accidents](#). An Excel workbook containing query results from Microsoft Access and CAROL have been submitted as additional support request materials and can be found here: [ERA25MA171, Support Request: Safety Research 1](#).¹

The section below first provides a brief snapshot of all helicopter accident investigations conducted by the NTSB ([retrieved via CAROL](#)), before moving into a discussion of the results from database queries on helicopter accident investigations where the defining event was categorized as a "birdstrike."

¹ Please see Appendix A for the SQL code used in Microsoft Access.

RESULTS

OVERVIEW OF ALL NTSB INVESTIGATIONS INVOLVING HELICOPTERS

Since 2009, the NTSB completed a total of 2,916 investigations involving helicopters, with 783 (26.85%) of these accidents resulting in a fatal injury. Since 2022, the NTSB has completed 633 helicopter investigations, with 165 (26%) of these accidents resulting in a fatal injury. Table 1 presents these results.²

Table 1. Number of NTSB Helicopter Accident Investigations and Helicopter Accidents Resulting in Fatalities, 2009 to 2025

Year	Helicopter Accident Investigations	Fatal Accidents	Fatalities	% Fatal Accidents
2009	196	47	144	24%
2010	165	50	107	30%
2011	178	46	87	26%
2012	193	44	97	23%
2013	186	56	130	30%
2014	172	45	90	26%
2015	184	48	103	26%
2016	161	42	86	26%
2017	174	48	104	28%
2018	184	58	137	32%
2019	169	51	110	30%
2020	130	36	57	28%
2021	191	47	92	25%
2022	193	52	108	27%
2023	162	42	80	26%
2024	154	37	83	24%
2025	124	34	131	27%
2022-10/29/25 Total	633	165	402	26%
Total	2916	783	1746	27%

NTSB INVESTIGATIONS INVOLVING HELICOPTER ACCIDENTS WHERE THE DEFINING EVENT WAS A BIRDSTRIKE

Since 2009, the NTSB investigated a total of 18 helicopter accidents where the defining event was categorized as a “birdstrike.” 3 of these 18 (17%) accidents were fatal and resulted in a total of 14 fatalities.

² Data are current through October 29th, 2025.

Since October 2022, the NTSB has investigated 8 helicopter accidents where the defining event was categorized as “birdstrike.” Of these, 8 accidents, 1 (12.5%) was fatal, resulting in a total of 3 fatal injuries. Table 2 displays these results.

Table 2. Helicopter Accidents where the Defining Event was “Birdstrike,” 2009 to 2025

Event Date	NTSB Number	Mkey	Aircraft Category	Event Tier Category	Fatal	Total Fatal
1/4/2009	CEN09MA117	73183	HELI	Birdstrike	Fatal	8
10/6/2010	ERA11CA012	77520	HELI	Birdstrike	Non-Fatal	0
6/4/2012	ERA12LA379	83847	HELI	Birdstrike	Non-Fatal	0
10/20/2013	ERA14CA009	88249	HELI	Birdstrike	Non-Fatal	0
10/29/2014	CEN15CA039	90359	HELI	Birdstrike	Non-Fatal	0
8/4/2016	ANC16CA051	93650	HELI	Birdstrike	Non-Fatal	0
11/20/2017	CEN18FA033	96342	HELI	Birdstrike	Fatal	3
12/28/2018	WPR19CA052	98822	HELI	Birdstrike	Non-Fatal	0
3/13/2019	GAA19CA168	99124	HELI	Birdstrike	Non-Fatal	0
11/22/2021	CEN22LA057	104335	HELI	Birdstrike	Non-Fatal	0
10/27/2022	ERA23LA044	106218	HELI	Birdstrike	Non-Fatal	0
12/13/2022	WPR23LA066	106456	HELI	Birdstrike	Non-Fatal	0
10/17/2023	CEN24LA017	193266	HELI	Birdstrike	Non-Fatal	0
11/22/2023	CEN24LA053	193462	HELI	Birdstrike	Non-Fatal	0
1/21/2024	CEN24FA094	193686	HELI	Birdstrike	Fatal	3
3/5/2024	CEN24LA129	193909	HELI	Birdstrike	Non-Fatal	0
3/29/2024	CEN24LA143	194011	HELI	Birdstrike	Non-Fatal	0
10/27/2024	ERA25LA027	195405	HELI	Birdstrike	Non-Fatal	0
2022- 10/29/25 Total					1	3
Total					3	14

APPENDIX A: BIRD STRIKE SQL QUERY FOR MICROSOFT ACCESS (SAFTI_PROD_AS)

```
SELECT
    dbo_AS_R_Event.Tier2Number,
    dbo_AS_R_EventDetail.EventDate,
    dbo_AS_R_EventDetail.City,
    dbo_AS_R_EventDetail.StateOrRegion,
    dbo_AS_R_EventDetail.Country,
    dbo_AS_R_AircraftIdentification.AircraftCategory,
    dbo_CM_M_NTSTBNumber.Tail,
    dbo_CM_M_NTSTBNumber.NTSTBNumberFull,
    dbo_CM_M_NTSTBNumber.MKey,
    dbo_AS_C_EventTier2.Tier2Name,
    dbo_AS_C_EventTier2.Tier2Description,
    dbo_AS_C_EventTier2.IsDefining,
    dbo_AS_R_AircraftIdentification.AircraftMake,
    dbo_AS_R_AircraftIdentification.AircraftModel,
    dbo_AS_R_AircraftIdentification.AircraftSeries,
    dbo_AS_R_AircraftIdentification.AircraftManufacturer,
    dbo_AS_M_ConcatenatedNarrative.*,
    dbo_AS_R_CrewOccupant.InjuryLevel
FROM
    dbo_AS_M_CaseAdmin
    INNER JOIN (
        dbo_AS_M_ConcatenatedNarrative
        INNER JOIN (
            (
                dbo_AS_R_CrewOccupant
                INNER JOIN (
                    dbo_CM_M_NTSTBNumber
                    INNER JOIN (
                        dbo_AS_R_AircraftIdentification
                        INNER JOIN (
                            dbo_AS_R_Event
                            INNER JOIN dbo_AS_R_EventDetail ON dbo_AS_R_Event.MKey =
dbo_AS_R_EventDetail.MKey
                        ) ON dbo_AS_R_AircraftIdentification.MKey = dbo_AS_R_Event.MKey
                    ) ON dbo_CM_M_NTSTBNumber.MKey = dbo_AS_R_AircraftIdentification.MKey
                ) ON dbo_AS_R_CrewOccupant.MKey = dbo_AS_R_AircraftIdentification.MKey
            )
            INNER JOIN dbo_AS_C_EventTier2 ON dbo_AS_R_Event.Tier2Number =
dbo_AS_C_EventTier2.Tier2Number
        ) ON dbo_AS_M_ConcatenatedNarrative.MKey = dbo_AS_R_AircraftIdentification.MKey
    ) ON dbo_AS_M_CaseAdmin.MKey = dbo_AS_R_AircraftIdentification.MKey
WHERE
    (
```

```
((dbo_AS_R_Event.Tier2Number) = "901")  
AND (  
    (dbo_AS_R_AircraftIdentification.AircraftCategory) = "HELI"  
)  
AND ((dbo_AS_M_CaseAdmin.EventType) = "ACC")  
);
```