



NTSB RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Adam Gerhardt
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GAA – General Aviation Accident Investigation

Date: 7/27/15
Person Contacted: Benjamin Knipping (Flight Instructor)
NTSB Accident Number: GAA15CA200

Narrative:

The following is a summary of a conversation that occurred over the telephone with the flight instructor of the accident flight.

The flight instructor explained that this was his second flight of the day. He reported that the student pilot was flying the helicopter in the downwind and base legs of the traffic pattern, but he began to manipulate the flight controls on base through touchdown. The flight instructor stated that he wanted to initiate a steeper decent due to being high on approach.

The flight instructor stated that the helicopter began to experience effective translational lift (ETL) during final approach and they started yawing to the right. He said that he applied left pedal, more collective, and forward cyclic. During the touchdown the pilot stated that they were slightly nose low with some forward momentum.

The flight instructor said that the left front skid caught in the ground and started rolling the helicopter to the left. He said that the main rotor hit the ground and then pushed them back upwards and to the right. The helicopter then came to a stop upright. The flight instructor reported that he was landing on a grassy dirt area on the airport that is approved for helicopter operations. He stated that the terrain was a little rough in this area. He also reported that the winds were around 11 knots at a direct headwind and were not a factor.

The pilot stated the helicopter experienced no mechanical malfunctions that would have precluded normal operations.