



NTSB RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Adam Gerhardt
Air Safety Investigator
General Aviation Accident Investigation Division, AS-20

Date: 5/1/2017
Person Contacted: Ben Hilty (Pilot in Command)
NTSB Accident Number: GAA17CA251

Narrative:

The following is a summary of a conversation that occurred with the individual named above:

- The pilot reported that he took off from private property and when he turned southwest he knew he “didn’t have tail rotor.” The helicopter was not at 40 knots, the pilot estimated that the airspeed was about 20-30 knots during the turn.
- He reported that he applied right anti-torque pedal but “there was nothing there.”
- He reported that the wind was from the north, about 15 knots.
- The helicopter descended and skidded into a field, the right skid collapsed, and the helicopter rolled over.
- The elevation where he took off from was around 4,700 ft. mean sea level in Wheatland, WY.
- The pilot stated that “I lost tail rotor effectiveness.”
- The pilot reported that he did not believe the tail rotor belts were “as tight as they should have been.” It was something he normally checks.
- The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical malfunctions or failures with the helicopter that would have precluded normal operation.
- The pilot reported that the main rotor blade was damaged and will need to be replaced. He added that the tail boom was “kinked” in middle.