

Interview Questions

Background

- Discuss your work background
I am president of ESP Safety, Inc
- Discuss your flight history (include when you started flying, what got you interested, why helicopters)
I started to fly almost a year ago. I like helicopters because you can land almost anywhere.
- How did you choose Pacific Helicopters?
My arrangement was with Vertical CFI Helicopters (Mr. Prodger) and he arranged to rent the helicopter from Pacific Helicopters.
- Was this your normal instructor?
No, it was my first flight with Mr. Prodger.
- What were some of the last maneuvers you flew with them? Where were you in training?
- You have my logbook.
- 72 hour history of events that transpired
 - o Please discuss your sleep habits and activities on July 12th, 13th, and 14th (to the best you can remember)
Nothing special happened. I spent the most of these days at home and hiking around area where I live. My sleep was normal.

Accident Flight

- Discuss the events that transpired before the accident flight
 - o How did you feel that day (e.g. rested, restless...etc)
I felt well.
 - o Did you take any medication?
 - Where you taking any prescription medication?
No
- Describe the preflight briefing and preflight inspection
I met with Wayne at the office. We signed papers for the helicopter lease and then we went outside to wait for helicopter to arrive. We performed a preflight inspection
- Describe what happened on the day of the accident and the accident flight
 - o Include
 - A description of events that took place before the flight
I met with Wayne at the office, we signed papers for the helicopter lease and then we went outside to wait for a helicopter to arrive. We performed a preflight inspection.
 - What your instructor and you had planned to work on during this flight and any discussions of maneuvers

We did not discuss any maneuvers ahead of time

- Were any of these maneuvers new to you

No

- What maneuvers you and your instructor performed

- Include where you did these maneuvers in sequence

Take off, fly left hand pattern, approach, hovering, fly along taxiway, left/right turn, return to the spot Charlie

- What happened during the accident flight

- How long was the lesson on the day of the accident?

One hour, we were almost done with the lesson.

- About how much time did you spend doing ground and flight time?

We were in air the whole hour, no ground work

- Discuss any radio work you did during the accident flight

Wayne did all the communications with the control tower. Right before the accident we asked for a takeoff clearance, we were told to hold

- What were the wind conditions like?

I don't remember exactly.

- How was the instructor's performance with the flight controls (e.g. gentle, aggressive...)

Calm and confident.

- Describe the process of transferring flight controls during flight (e.g. my controls, yours controls, my controls or any other transfer method) or was this discussed

My controls/your controls.

- We understand that at some point towards the end of the flight near the time of the accident, you and your instructor were hovering along Taxiway Z at Spot C

- Please describe any hover work you did at Spot C

- Include

- About what altitude you hovered at

Approximately 2-3 feet

- What the instructor asked you to do along Taxiway Z

Hover, fly along the taxiway, return backwards to spot C

- Any low altitude work you performed while at Spot C (e.g. pivot points, slope work...etc)

No

- Did you have the flight controls while you were at Spot C?

- If so, did the instructor ever take the controls from you while you were hovering? When?

The instructor took over control when the helicopter was away from the taxiway over the grassy area

- Describe anything you recall in the final moments of the flight

We were hovering, Wayne took control, explained me my mistake (he pointed out that I should keep my eyes looking to horizon and don't look down). Wayne requested take off clearance and was told to hold, then he started to turn left, the machine turned very rapidly and pitched to the left, then Wayne made a right turn, the machine turn rapidly and also pitched to the right. We crashed.

Follow-up Questions

- Did you have your seatbelt on during the accident flight?
yes
 - o Did you take it off for any reason?
No
- Have you ever performed hover work over the terrain closest to the buildings next to Taxiway Z at Hayward?
Yes
- Discuss issues with the helicopter/environment/personnel during the accident flight or while hovering at Spot C?
I do not recall any issues with the helicopter/environment/personnel.
- Describe any communication issues (including language barrier issues) that you experienced with your instructor
None.
- Did you fly between December 2018 and July 2019?
 - o Why did you take a break?
My regular instructor was on medical leave.
- Was this your first time flying with this instructor?
 - o If so, did you feel comfortable in his abilities?
Yes and yes
- Where did Mr. Prodder position his hands when you were on the controls? (on his lap, near the cyclic grip, etc)
The right hand near the cyclic grip, his left hand sometimes would be on his lap and sometimes near the collective grip
- Discuss any issues you experiences with the pedals prior to the event (stiffness, looseness, vibrations)
No issues
- Describe any issues with the cyclic or collective controls prior to the event (stiffness, looseness, vibrations)
No issues
- Discuss any environmental anomalies (such as wind issues) you experienced while maneuvering around Spot C
There was wind blowing
- Have you flown with the hydraulic switch OFF
 - o Did you and your instructor fly with it OFF on the day of the accident?
No
- Have you flown with the governor OFF
No