

9/11/2019

Approximately 12:30 pm

N1168U

Weather- VFR

I was in level cruise about 1000' agl at an airspeed around 110 kts on a ferry flight from MIT to AJO. Over the city of Azusa, I heard and felt a loud bang without any onset of noise or vibration. The aircraft yawed to the right. I immediately lowered the collective without making any other sudden or large inputs. I saw a set of athletic fields off my nose about half a mile or less to my 1 o'clock position. I immediately started an autorotative approach to land as my greatest concern was inflight breakup. I then made a quick scan- all gauges green, no odd vibrations or noise, but tail rotor pedal inputs were stiff and unresponsive. I made a right dogleg entry to the baseball field to keep a steady decent profile controlling yaw with collective. I could see that the baseball field was empty and committed to land there. I rolled the throttles to idle to maintain heading in the flare, and performed a run on landing. The time from initial failure indication to touchdown I estimate was less than a minute. I then expedited aircraft shutdown and exited the aircraft normally. There were no injuries or damage to persons or property on the ground.



Timothy E. West