

Date: 9/30/22

Name: Benjamin Nielsen

Certification: Student pilot

We were performing an off airport landing leading up to the accident. We had established that winds were coming out of the north-northeast, so we were coming into the landing spot from the south going north after performing an OGE power check. We came in for a shallow approach to the spot. As we neared the landing zone, we decided to hover over the spot instead of going for a full set down. We hovered for a couple of seconds before the full throttle light came on. We had some space to the right of us where it sloped down so we could try to push forward to get some altitude. As we pushed forward, I heard a noise or some sort of vibration. The low rotor rpm warning system came on soon after, and we tried to restore RPMs. We soon after crashed into a nearby tree. The mixture was pulled, and the Emergency Locator Transmitter was activated. We exited the helicopter after the blades had stopped rotating. I noticed then that the tail boom had been sheared and the tail rotor was nearby down the hill a little ways.