

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD PILOT/OPERATOR AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT/INCIDENT REPORT

This form to be used for reporting civil and public aircraft accidents and incidents

BASIC INFORMATION

Accident/Incident Location

Nearest City/Place: El Centro State: CA

ZIP: 92244 Country: USA

Latitude: 32.94059 N Longitude: 115.31871 W

(Enter in decimal degrees or degrees:minutes:seconds)

Accident/Incident Date/Time

Date: 12/23/2023 Local Time: 10:30 pm

mm/dd/yyyy

Time Zone: PST

Collision with Other Aircraft: ☐ Midair ☐ On-ground ☒ None

AIRCRAFT INFORMATION

Registration Number: N111PM

Manufacturer: _____

Model: _____

Serial Number: _____

Year of Manufacture: _____

Amateur-Built: ☐ Yes ☐ No If Yes: ☐ Kit/Plans ☐ Original Design Make: _____

- ☐ IFR-Equipped and Certified
☐ Commercial Space Flight
☐ Unmanned Aircraft

Maximum Gross Weight: _____ lbs

Weight at Time of Accident/Incident: _____ lbs

Number of Seats: 20 Flight Crew Seats: 2

Cabin Crew Seats: 0 Passenger Seats: 0

Number of Engines: 1

Category of Aircraft

- ☐ Airplane
☐ Balloon
☐ Blimp/Dirigible
☐ Glider
☐ Gyroplane
☒ Helicopter
☐ Powered Lift
☐ Rocket
☐ Ultralight
☐ Unknown

Type of Airworthiness Certificate

(Check all that apply)

- Standard**
☐ Normal
☐ Aerobatic
☐ Balloon
☐ Commuter
☐ Transport
☐ Utility
☐ Certificate of Authorization or Waiver (COA)
☐ None
- Special**
☒ Restricted
☐ Limited
☐ Provisional
☐ Special Flight
☐ Experimental
☐ Special Light-Sport
☐ Experimental Light-Sport
☐ Unknown

Landing Gear

(Check all that apply)

- ☐ Retractable
☐ Tricycle
☐ Amphibian
☐ Emergency Float
☐ Float
☐ Hull
☐ Other Launch/Recovery System
☐ None
- ☐ Tailwheel
☐ High Skid
☒ Skid
☐ Ski
☐ Ski/Wheel
☐ Unknown

Engine Type (Select one)

- ☐ Reciprocating
☒ Turbo Shaft
☐ Turbo Prop
☐ Turbo Jet
☐ Turbo Fan
☐ Electric
☐ Liquid Rocket
☐ Solid Rocket
☐ Hybrid Rocket
☐ None
☐ Unknown

Fuel System Type (Reciprocating)

- ☐ Carburetor ☐ Fuel-Injected

Engine	Engine Manufacturer	Engine Model/Series	Manufacturer's Serial Number	Date of Mfg. mm/dd/yyyy	Rated Power ☐ Horsepower or ☐ lbs of Thrust	Total Time (hours)	Time Since: Inspection (hours)	Overhaul (hours)
Eng. 1								
Eng. 2								
Eng. 3								
Eng. 4								

Last Inspection Type

- ☐ 100-Hour ☐ Continuous Airworthiness
☐ AAIP ☐ Conditional Inspection
☐ Annual ☐ Unknown

Date Last Inspection: _____
mm/dd/yyyy

Airframe Total Time: _____ hrs

hours measured at (Select one)

- ☐ Last Inspection ☐ Time of Accident/Incident

Type of Maintenance Program (Select one)

- ☐ Annual
☐ Conditional (Amateur-built only)
☐ Manufacturer's Inspection Program
☐ Other Approved Inspection Program (AAIP)
☐ Continuous Airworthiness
☐ Other, specify: _____

Description of Fire Extinguishing System

- ☐ None
☐ Specify: _____

Propeller 1

- ☐ Fixed Pitch
☐ Controllable Pitch
☐ Ground Adjustable

Manufacturer: _____

Model: _____

Propeller 2

- ☐ Fixed Pitch
☐ Controllable Pitch
☐ Ground Adjustable

Manufacturer: _____

Model: _____

ELT Installed: ☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes:

ELT Manufacturer: _____

Model or Part No.: _____

TSO No.: ☐ C91 (121.5 MHz) ☐ C91a (121.5 MHz)
☐ C126 (406 MHz)

Was ELT still mounted in aircraft? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Was ELT still connected to antenna? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Did ELT Activate? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If activated:

Did ELT Aid in Locating Aircraft? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If not activated:

- Indicate Reason: ☐ Impact Damage
☐ Fire Damage
☐ Battery Expired/Damaged
☐ Unknown

Additional Equipment (Check all that apply)

- ☐ ADS-B
☐ Airframe Parachute
☐ Angle of Attack Indicator
☐ Autopilot
☐ Data Recorder
☐ Electronic Flight Bag or Handheld Device
☐ Electronic Multifunction Display
☐ Electronic Primary Flight Display
☐ Handheld GPS
☐ Heads Up Display
☐ Onboard Weather
☐ Satellite Tracking Device
☐ Stall Warning System
☐ Video Recording Device
☐ Other, Specify: _____

OWNER/OPERATOR INFORMATION			
Registered Aircraft Owner Name: _____ Fractional Ownership Aircraft: ☐ Yes ☐ No		City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Country: _____	
Operator of Aircraft ☐ Same As Registered Owner Name: _____ Doing Business As: _____ Air Carrier/Operator Designator (4 Character Code): _____		☐ Same Address as Registered Owner City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Country: _____	
Operating Certificates Held <i>(Check all that apply)</i> ☐ None ☐ Flag Carrier Operating Certificate (FAR 121) ☐ Supplemental ☐ Air Cargo ☐ Foreign Air Carriers (FAR 129) ☐ Rotorcraft External Load (FAR 133) ☐ Commuter Air Carrier (FAR 135) ☐ On-Demand Air Taxi (FAR 135) ☐ Commercial Air Tour (FAR 136) ☐ Agricultural Aircraft (FAR 137) ☐ Pilot School (FAR 141) ☐ Certificate of Authorization or Waiver (COA) ☐ Commercial Space Transportation Experimental Permit ☐ Commercial Space Transportation License ☐ Other Operator of Large Aircraft	Regulation Flight Conducted Under ☐ FAR 91 ☐ FAR 129 ☐ FAR 415 ☐ FAR 103 ☐ FAR 133 ☐ FAR 431 ☐ FAR 121 ☐ FAR 135 ☐ FAR 435 ☐ FAR 125 ☒ FAR 137 ☐ FAR 437 ☐ FAR 91 Special Flight ☐ Non-US, Commercial ☐ Non-US, Non-commercial ☐ Public Aircraft <i>(Select one)</i> ☐ Armed Forces ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ Local ☐ Unknown	Revenue Operation for FAR 121, 125, 129, 135 <i>(Select one for each group)</i> ☐ Scheduled or Commuter ☐ Domestic ☐ Non-Scheduled or Air Taxi ☐ International ☐ Passenger ☐ Cargo ☐ Mail Contract Only	
Revenue Sightseeing Flight ☐ Yes ☒ No		Purpose of Flight for FAR 91, 103, 133, 137 <i>(Select one)</i> ☒ Aerial Application ☐ Firefighting ☐ Unknown ☐ Aerial Observation ☐ Flight Test ☐ Air Drop ☐ Glider Tow ☐ Air Race/Show ☐ Instructional ☐ Banner Tow ☐ Other Work Use ☐ Business ☐ Personal ☐ Executive/Corporate ☐ Positioning ☐ External Load ☐ Skydiving ☐ Ferry	
Air Medical Flight ☐ Yes ☒ No			
AIRPORT INFORMATION <i>(Fill in if accident/incident occurred on approach, landing, takeoff, departure, or within 3 miles of an airport)</i>			
Airport Name: _____ Airport Identifier: _____ Proximity to Airport: ☐ Off Airport/Airstrip ☐ On Airport/Airstrip ☐ N/A		Distance From Airport Center: _____ sm Direction From Airport: _____ degrees true Airport Elevation: _____ ft. msl	
Runway Information Runway ID: _____ (L/R/C) Length: _____ ft Width: _____ ft		Condition of Runway/Landing Surface <i>(Check all that apply)</i> ☐ Dry ☐ Snow-Compacted ☐ Water-Calm ☐ Holes ☐ Snow-Crusted ☐ Water-Choppy ☐ Ice Covered ☐ Snow-Dry ☐ Water-Glassy ☐ Rough ☐ Snow-Wet ☐ Wet ☐ Rubber Deposits ☐ Soft ☐ Slush-Covered ☐ Vegetation ☐ Unknown	
Runway/Landing Surface <i>(Check all that apply)</i> ☐ Asphalt ☐ Grass/Turf ☐ Macadam ☐ Water ☐ Concrete ☐ Gravel ☐ Metal/Wood ☐ Dirt ☐ Ice ☐ Snow ☐ Unknown			
Approach/Departure Segment <i>(Select one)</i> ☐ Taxi ☐ VFR Departure ☐ On Instrument Approach ☐ Downwind ☐ Low Approach ☐ Takeoff ☐ IFR Departure Procedure/Clearance ☐ Landing ☐ Base ☐ Go Around ☐ Initial Climb ☐ ☐ ☐ Final ☐ Aborted Landing (after touchdown) ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Crosswind ☐ Unknown			
IFR Approach <i>(Check all that apply)</i> ☒ None ☐ ADF/NDB ☐ PAR ☐ MLS ☐ Practice ☐ SDF ☐ Sidestep ☐ LDA ☐ GPS ☐ VOR/TVOR ☐ ILS ☐ ASR ☐ VOR/DME ☐ Localizer Only ☐ Visual ☐ TACAN ☐ LOC-back course ☐ Contact ☐ RNAV ☐ Circling ☐ Unknown		VFR Approach <i>(Check all that apply)</i> ☒ None ☐ Traffic Pattern ☐ Stop and Go ☐ Straight-In ☐ Touch and Go ☐ Valley/Terrain Following ☐ Simulated Forced Landing ☐ Go Around ☐ Forced Landing ☐ Full Stop ☐ Precautionary Landing ☐ Unknown	

"FLIGHT CREWMEMBER 1" INFORMATION

"Flight Crewmember 1" Responsibilities at the Time of Accident/Incident

☒ Pilot
 ☐ Co-Pilot
 ☐ Student Pilot
 ☐ Flight Instructor
 ☐ Check Pilot
 ☐ Flight Engineer
 ☐ Other Flight Crew

"Flight Crewmember 1" was pilot flying
☒ Yes
☐ No

"Flight Crewmember 1" Identification

First Name: Justin

City of Residence: Hollister

Middle Initial: J

State: CA ZIP: 95023

Last Name: Hodges

Country: USA

Age at time of Accident/Incident: 45 Date of Birth: [REDACTED] mm/dd/yyyy

Certificate Number: _____

Degree of Injury

☒ None
☐ Fatal
☐ Minor
☐ Unknown
☐ Serious

Seat Occupied

☐ Left
☐ Front
☐ Unknown
☒ Right
☐ Rear
☐ Center
☐ Single

Restraint Type

Available
☐ None
☐ Lap only
☐ 3-point
☒ 4-point
☐ 5-point
☐ Unknown
Used
☐ None
☐ Lap only
☐ 3-point
☐ 4-point
☐ 5-point
☐ Unknown

Inflatable Restraints

☒ Not Installed
☐ Installed
☐ Not Deployed
☐ Deployed
☐ Unknown

Pilot Certificate(s) (Check all that apply)

☐ None
☐ Flight Instructor
☒ Commercial
☐ US Military
☒ Private
☐ Recreational
☐ Airline Transport
☐ Foreign
☐ Student
☐ Sport
☐ Flight Engineer

Principal Occupation

☒ Pilot
☐ Other
☐ Unknown

Medical Certificate

☐ None
☐ Class 3
☐ Class 1
☐ Driver's License (Sport Pilot only)
☒ Class 2
☐ Unknown

Medical Certificate Validity

☐ Without limitations/waivers
☐ Unknown
☒ With limitations/waivers
☐ N/A
☐ Special Issuance

Date of Last Medical

5/19/23
 mm/dd/yyyy

Medical Certificate Limitations

Must use corrective lenses

Medical Certificate Special Issuance

Date of Last Flight Review
 or Equivalent, Including
 FAR 121/135 Checks:

2/18/22
 mm/dd/yyyy

Flight Review Aircraft

Make: 1946 Taylorcraft
 Model: BC 12-D

Airplane Rating(s) (Check all that apply)

☐ None
☒ Single-Engine Land
☐ Single-Engine Sea
☐ Multiengine Land
☐ Multiengine Sea

Other Aircraft Rating(s) (Check all that apply)

☐ None
☐ Airship
☐ Balloon
☐ Glider
☐ Gyroplane
☒ Helicopter
☐ Powered Lift

Instrument Rating(s) (Check all that apply)

☐ None
☒ Airplane
☐ Helicopter
☐ Powered Lift

Instructor Rating(s) (Check all that apply)

☒ None
☐ Airplane Single-Engine
☐ Instrument Airplane
☐ Airplane Multi-Engine
☐ Instrument Helicopter
☐ Gyroplane
☐ Helicopter
☐ Powered Lift
☐ Glider
☐ Sport

Type Ratings

Student Endorsements (Include dates)

Flight Time (Enter appropriate number of hours in each box)	All Aircraft	This Make & Model	Airplane Single Engine	Airplane Multiengine	Night	Instrument		Rotorcraft	Glider	Lighter Than Air
						Actual	Simulated			
Total Time	81.9	616.2	327	0	1376.6	4.5	43	7791	0.9	0
Pilot in Command (PIC)	8047	616.2	299.8	0	1371.6	4.5	43	7748	0.9	0
Time as Instructor	0									
This Make/Model					614.2	0	0			
Last 90 Days	516	516	0	0	516	0	0	516	0	0
Last 30 Days	178.9	178.9	0	0	178.9	0	0	178.9	0	0
Last 24 Hours	6.0	6.0	0	0	6.0	0	0	6.0	0	0

FLIGHT ITINERARY INFORMATION

Last Departure Point Airport ID: <u>Tri-Rotor Browley</u> City: <u>Browley</u> State: <u>CA</u> Country: <u>USA</u>	Time of Departure Time: <u>18:00</u> Time Zone: <u>PDT</u>	Destination Airport ID: <u>Same</u> City: _____ State: _____ Country: _____	Type Flight Plan Filed ☒ None ☐ VFR/IFR ☐ Company VFR ☐ IFR ☐ Military VFR ☐ Unknown ☐ VFR Activated? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown
--	---	--	---

Type of ATC Clearance/Service (Check all that apply) ☒ None ☐ Special VFR ☐ Special IFR ☐ VFR Flight Following ☐ Cruise ☐ VFR ☐ IFR ☐ VFR On Top ☐ Traffic Advisory ☐ Unknown / NA			
Airspace where the accident/incident occurred (Check all that apply) ☐ Class A ☒ Class G ☒ Military Operations Area (MOA) ☐ Special ☐ Class B ☐ Demo Area ☐ Airport Advisory Area ☐ Air Traffic Control Area ☐ Class C ☐ Warning Area ☐ Jet Training Area ☐ Unknown ☐ Class D ☐ Prohibited Area ☐ TRSA ☐ Class E ☐ Restricted Area ☐ FAR 93			Altitude of In-Flight Occurrence: <u>100</u> ft msl

WEATHER INFORMATION AT THE ACCIDENT/INCIDENT SITE

Source of Pilot Weather Information (Choose all that apply) ☐ National Weather Service ☒ Company ☐ Flight Service Station ☐ Military ☐ TV/Radio ☐ Internet ☒ Automated Report ☐ None ☐ Commercial Weather Service (DUATS) ☐ Unknown ☐ On-Board Weather	Weather Observation Facility Facility ID: <u>KIPL</u> Observation Time: <u>22:15</u> Time Zone: <u>PDT</u> Distance from Accident Site: <u>10</u> nm Direction from Accident Site: <u>260</u> degrees true
---	--

Basic Conditions ☒ VMC ☐ IMC ☐ Unknown	Light Condition ☐ Dawn ☐ Dusk ☐ Dark Night ☐ Unknown ☐ Day ☒ Night ☐ Bright Night
Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition ☒ Clear ☐ Thin Broken ☐ Thin Overcast ☐ Few ☐ Partial Obscuration ☐ Scattered ☐ Unknown	Ceiling ☒ None (Clear) ☐ Obscured ☐ Indefinite ☐ Broken ☐ Overcast ☐ Unknown
Lowest Cloud Condition Height _____ ft agl	Ceiling Height _____ ft agl
Temperature: _____ (C) or <u>55</u> (F) Dew Point: _____ (C) or <u>49</u> (F) Altimeter Setting: <u>30.09</u> in. Hg or _____ MB	

Wind Direction ☐ Variable - or - Direction: <u>215</u> degrees true	Wind Speed ☐ Calm ☐ Light and Variable - or - Speed: <u>5</u> kts	Wind Gusts ☒ Not Gusting - or - Speed: _____ kts	Visibility <u>P6M</u> miles (unlimited) RVR: _____ feet RVV: _____ miles Density Altitude: _____ ft
--	---	--	--

Intensity of Precipitation ☐ Light ☐ Moderate ☐ Heavy ☒ N/A ☐ Unknown	Type of Precipitation (Check all that apply) ☒ None ☐ Drizzle ☐ Freezing Rain ☐ Rain ☐ Ice Pellets ☐ Snow Shower ☐ Snow ☐ Snow Pellets ☐ Ice Pellets Shower ☐ Hail ☐ Snow Grains ☐ Freezing Drizzle ☐ Rain Showers ☐ Ice Crystals	Restriction to Visibility (Check all that apply) ☒ None ☐ Fog ☐ Ground Fog ☐ Blowing Dust ☐ Haze ☐ Ice Fog ☐ Blowing Sand ☐ Smoke ☐ Unknown ☐ Blowing Snow ☐ Dust
---	--	--

Icing Forecast Amount: ☒ None ☐ Trace ☐ Light ☐ Moderate ☐ Severe ☐ Unknown Type: ☐ N/A ☐ Rime ☐ Clear ☐ Mixed ☐ Unknown	Icing Actual Amount: ☒ None ☐ Trace ☐ Light ☐ Moderate ☐ Severe ☐ Unknown Type: ☐ N/A ☐ Rime ☐ Clear ☐ Mixed ☐ Unknown	Turbulence Type (Check all that apply): ☒ None ☐ Clear Air ☐ Terrain-Induced ☐ Convective Turbulence Severity: ☐ Light ☐ Moderate ☐ Severe ☐ Extreme
--	--	--

NOTAMS (D and FDC), AIRMETS, SIGMETs, PIREPs in effect at the time of the accident/incident:

DAMAGE TO AIRCRAFT AND OTHER PROPERTY**Aircraft Damage**

- ☒ None ☐ Substantial
☐ Minor ☐ Destroyed
 ☐ Unknown

Aircraft Fire

- ☒ None ☐ Both Ground and In-Flight
☐ In-Flight ☐ Fire at Unknown Time
☐ On-Ground ☐ Unknown

Aircraft Explosion

- ☒ None ☐ Both Ground and In-Flight
☐ In-Flight ☐ Explosion at Unknown Time
☐ On-Ground ☐ Unknown

Description of Damage to Aircraft and Other Property (Use additional sheet if necessary)

KAr-Flex (Spelling?) and adjacent bracket/mount

NARRATIVE HISTORY OF FLIGHT (Please type or print in ink)

Describe what occurred in chronological order, including circumstances leading to and nature of accident/incident. Describe terrain and include wreckage distribution sketch if pertinent. Attach extra sheets if needed. State departure time and location, services obtained, and intended destination. Provide as much detail as possible.

December 23 2023 22:30 PDT I departed from atop my loader truck on a SSW heading with 73 gallons of pesticides in the hoppers and approximately 200 lbs of fuel.

Wind was out of the SSW approximately 5 mph based on loader truck orientation (they park based on direction of their observation of the wind) and my observation of the dust.

About a mile after my departure at an altitude of 100' AGL still heading SSW toward my intended application site, the helicopter suddenly started vibrating badly and making loud noises. I ~~im~~ immediately lowered the collective and executed a run-on landing in the alfalfa field I was flying over. Upon completion of the landing I shut down the helicopter ~~and~~ immediately.

I inspected the helicopter and observed no apparent damage to any external components. When I opened the inspection panels I noticed metal flakes between the turbine and main rotor transmission. I left the helicopter tied down in the field and got a ride from my loader to the airport.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Please type or print in ink)

Use this space if additional space is needed for any answers.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS COMPLETE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE

Date of this Report

4/4/2024
mm/dd/yyyyName of Pilot/Operator: Justin HodgesSignature: -- or -- ☐ Check here to electronically sign this document

If a Person Other than Pilot/Operator is Filing Report

Name: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

-- or -- ☐ Check here to electronically sign this document**FOR NTSB USE ONLY**NTSB Accident/Incident No.
WPR24LA067Reviewed by NTSB Regional Office
WPRName of Investigator
K BlocherDate Report Received
4/4/24