

Kathryn Whitaker
Aviation Accident Investigator
Western Pacific Region

Date: July 8, 2025

Subject: WPR25LA199

Contact: James Monberg, Pilot-Rated Passenger

During a phone call, Mr. Monberg stated the following:

- After N23UP was cleared to depart, the pilot/owner initially hover taxied the helicopter toward the runway before beginning a climbing left turn.
- The helicopter felt very unstable, and without warning, the nose pointed down until the whole canopy was filled with a view of the ramp's surface.
- Mr. Monberg took the helicopter's flight controls to arrest the helicopter's descent. Immediately after, the helicopter landed hard on the ramp and bounced up.
- After the bounce, the helicopter was facing parked airplanes and powerlines, and he climbed the helicopter over them.
- He called air traffic control and requested to return to the airport. He was subsequently able to return the helicopter to the ramp.
- Mr. Monberg stated that the helicopter flew normally, and he did not observe any mechanical anomalies that would have precluded normal operation at the time that he flew it.