

Michael Hicks
Air Safety Investigator
OAS-WPR

Date: May 1, 2026

Subject: WPR26LA172

Contact: Pilot-in-command (PIC) N4077B

The following is a synopsis of the communication as relayed to the NTSB Investigator-in-charge, by the PIC, during the phone conversation pertaining to N4077B.

May 1, 2026@1731pdt

The PIC reported that the accident flight was a day, visual flight rules, personal flight. While landing atop a mountain the tail rotor struck a tree stump/scrub tree and damaged the tail section. He recalled that during the descent to land, the tail rotor struck the tree, he continued to lower the collective and the helicopter landed hard on the uneven dirt surface. The main rotor blades did not contact the ground or the tailboom. According to the National Transportation Safety Board Pilot Aircraft Accident Report, the Operator Safety Recommendation section indicated, "Always land your tail first, then the other parts of the aircraft. I didn't see the tree stump".

NOTHING FOLLOWS