



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Chapman, Kansas	Accident Number:	CEN23LA279
Date & Time:	July 5, 2023, 16:41 Local	Registration:	N67FA
Aircraft:	Bell 206B	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Low altitude operation/event	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Analysis

The pilot intended to spray a corn field and had discussed the location of power lines with his ground crew. As he approached the field, he observed power lines on 3 sides of the field in addition to a large set of power lines feeding into an adjacent substation. The pilot completed a 360° survey to identify the hazards including power lines, guy wires, and trees. During the survey, the middle of the field appeared to be clear. The pilot initiated an initial application pass and the helicopter struck a green wire, about 1/4" in diameter. The pilot's efforts to maintain control of the helicopter were not successful, and it subsequently impacted the corn field. The helicopter came to rest on its left side with substantial damage to the fuselage, tail boom, main rotor blades, and flight controls. The pilot stated that there were no failures or malfunctions related to the helicopter before the impact with the power line. He also noted that the power line was green in color which was "practically invisible" with the background of the corn field.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The pilot's failure to maintain clearance from the power line during an agricultural application pass.

Findings

Personnel issues	Identification/recognition - Pilot
Environmental issues	Wire - Contributed to outcome
Aircraft	Altitude - Not attained/maintained

Factual Information

History of Flight

Maneuvering-low-alt flying	Low altitude operation/event (Defining event)
Maneuvering-low-alt flying	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	42, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	5-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Helicopter	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	June 28, 2023
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	September 3, 2022
Flight Time:	5250 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2008 hours (Total, this make and model), 4656 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Bell	Registration:	N67FA
Model/Series:	206B	Aircraft Category:	Helicopter
Year of Manufacture:	1994	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	5168
Landing Gear Type:	High skid	Seats:	3
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	June 22, 2023 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3350 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	2 Hrs	Engines:	1 Turbo shaft
Airframe Total Time:	10095 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Allison
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	250-C20 SER
Registered Owner:	SF LEASING LLC	Rated Power:	420 Horsepower
Operator:	SF LEASING LLC	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	Agricultural aircraft (137)
Operator Does Business As:	Fulks Helicopter Service	Operator Designator Code:	N/A

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KFRI, 1065 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	12 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	16:55 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	75°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 2500 ft AGL	Visibility	7 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 7000 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots / 0 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	10°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.05 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	27°C / 19°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Junction City, KS (PVT)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Junction City, KS (PVT)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	13:18 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Smokey Valley Ag PVT	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	1258 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Vegetation
Runway Used:		IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	38.9978,-97.0175(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Sorensen, Timothy
Additional Participating Persons:	Michael LeBlanc; FAA Flight Standards; Wichita, KS
Original Publish Date:	September 8, 2023
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class 4
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=192545

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