




|  |  |                                 |                                  |                                      |                  |
|--|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
|    |  | NTSB ID: ERA13TA341             |                                  | Aircraft Registration Number: N1608D |                  |
|  |  | Occurrence Date: 07/29/2013     |                                  | Most Critical Injury: Serious        |                  |
|  |  | Occurrence Type: Accident       |                                  | Investigated By: NTSB                |                  |
| Location/Time  |  |                                 |                                  |                                      |                  |
| Nearest City/Place<br>Jackson  |  | State<br>KY                     | Zip Code<br>41339                | Local Time<br>1045                   | Time Zone<br>EDT |
| Airport Proximity: Off Airport/Airstrip  |  | Distance From Landing Facility: |                                  |                                      |                  |
| Aircraft Information Summary   |  |                                 |                                  |                                      |                  |
| Aircraft Manufacturer<br>MCDONNELL DOUGLAS HELICOPTER  |  | Model/Series<br>369E            |                                  | Type of Aircraft<br>Helicopter       |                  |
| Revenue Sightseeing Flight: No   |  |                                 | Air Medical Transport Flight: No |                                      |                  |
| Narrative  |  |                                 |                                  |                                      |                  |
| <p>Brief narrative statement of facts, conditions and circumstances pertinent to the accident/incident:</p> <p>*** Note: NTSB investigators may not have traveled in support of this investigation and used data provided by various sources to prepare this public aircraft accident report. ***</p> <p>On July 29, 2013, about 1045 eastern daylight time, a McDonnell Douglas Helicopter 369E, N1608D, operated by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration as a public use flight, was destroyed when it impacted terrain, following a collision with a utility wire in cruise flight near Jackson, Kentucky. The commercial pilot and passenger were seriously injured. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed and no flight plan was filed for the local aerial observation flight that originated from London-Corbin Airport (LOZ), London, Kentucky, about 1015.</p> <p>The operator reported that four utility wires had run between two ridges to support a mine, which had long been closed. Over time, three of the four wires deteriorated and fell due to the natural elements. One wire remained, about 500 feet above the valley floor, and was the wire that the helicopter contacted.</p> <p>According to a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) inspector, the wire between the ridges was unmarked and uncharted. As the mine was closed, there was nobody to report the wire to the FAA for addition on the appropriate sectional chart. The helicopter had been flying between the ridges and contacted the wire. The helicopter subsequently descended into a valley and a postcrash fire consumed the wreckage. The inspector added that the helicopter was equipped with two wire cutters, one near the bottom of the fuselage and one near the top of the fuselage; however, the wire contact was with the rotorhead, which was located above the top wire cutter.</p> <p>Updated on Jan 30 2014 12:34PM</p> |  |                                 |                                  |                                      |                  |
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| <br><b>National Transportation Safety Board</b><br><b>FACTUAL REPORT</b><br><b>AVIATION</b> |                                     | NTSB ID: ERA13TA341                  |                              |                        |              |
|  |                                     | Occurrence Date: 07/29/2013          |                              |                        |              |
|  |                                     | Occurrence Type: Accident            |                              |                        |              |
| <b>Landing Facility/Approach Information</b>   |                                     |                                      |                              |                        |              |
| Airport Name<br>N/A  | Airport ID:                         | Airport Elevation<br>Ft. MSL         | Runway Used<br>N/A           | Runway Length          | Runway Width |
| Runway Surface Type: Not Applicable  |                                     |                                      |                              |                        |              |
| Runway Surface Condition:  |                                     |                                      |                              |                        |              |
| Approach/Arrival Flown: NONE   |                                     |                                      |                              |                        |              |
| VFR Approach/Landing: None   |                                     |                                      |                              |                        |              |
| <b>Aircraft Information</b>  |                                     |                                      |                              |                        |              |
| Aircraft Manufacturer<br>MCDONNELL DOUGLAS HELICOPTER  |                                     | Model/Series<br>369E                 |                              | Serial Number<br>0434E |              |
| Airworthiness Certificate(s): Normal   |                                     |                                      |                              |                        |              |
| Landing Gear Type: High Skid   |                                     |                                      |                              |                        |              |
| Amateur Built Acft? No   | Number of Seats: 4                  | Certified Max Gross Wt.<br>3000 LBS  | Number of Engines: 1         |                        |              |
| Engine Type:<br>Turbo Shaft  | Engine Manufacturer:<br>Rolls-Royce | Model/Series:<br>250-C20B            | Rated Power:<br>420 HP       |                        |              |
| - Aircraft Inspection Information  |                                     |                                      |                              |                        |              |
| Type of Last Inspection  | Date of Last Inspection             | Time Since Last Inspection<br>Hours  | Airframe Total Time<br>Hours |                        |              |
| - Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) Information  |                                     |                                      |                              |                        |              |
| ELT Installed?/Type  | ELT Operated?                       | ELT Aided in Locating Accident Site? |                              |                        |              |
| <b>Owner/Operator Information</b>  |                                     |                                      |                              |                        |              |
| Registered Aircraft Owner<br>FREE LANCE AIR INC  |                                     | Street Address                       |                              |                        |              |
|  |                                     | City<br>ATLANTA                      | State<br>GA                  | Zip Code<br>30366-0127 |              |
| Operator of Aircraft<br>U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration   |                                     | Street Address                       |                              |                        |              |
|  |                                     | City<br>ATLANTA                      | State<br>GA                  | Zip Code<br>30366-0127 |              |
| Operator Does Business As:   |                                     |                                      | Operator Designator Code:    |                        |              |
| - Type of U.S. Certificate(s) Held: None   |                                     |                                      |                              |                        |              |
| Air Carrier Operating Certificate(s):  |                                     |                                      |                              |                        |              |
| Operating Certificate:   |                                     |                                      | Operator Certificate:        |                        |              |
| Regulation Flight Conducted Under: Public Use  |                                     |                                      |                              |                        |              |
| Type of Flight Operation Conducted: Public Aircraft - Federal  |                                     |                                      |                              |                        |              |
| FACTUAL REPORT - AVIATION  |                                     |                                      |                              |                        |              |

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|  <p><b>National Transportation Safety Board</b><br/><b>FACTUAL REPORT</b><br/><b>AVIATION</b></p> | NTSB ID: ERA13TA341         |
|  | Occurrence Date: 07/29/2013 |
|  | Occurrence Type: Accident   |

**First Pilot Information**

|                 |                 |                  |                          |           |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Name<br>On File | City<br>On File | State<br>On File | Date of Birth<br>On File | Age<br>36 |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------|

|      |                     |                         |                             |
|------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sex: | Seat Occupied: Left | Occupational Pilot? Yes | Certificate Number: On File |
|------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|

Certificate(s): Commercial

Airplane Rating(s): Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land

Rotorcraft/Glider/LTA: Helicopter

Instrument Rating(s): Airplane; Helicopter

Instructor Rating(s): None

Current Biennial Flight Review? 02/2013

|                        |   |                                    |
|------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Medical Cert.: Class 1 | Medical Cert. Status: Without Waivers/Limitations | Date of Last Medical Exam: 10/2012 |
|------------------------|---|------------------------------------|

| - Flight Time Matrix  | All A/C | This Make and Model | Airplane Single Engine | Airplane Multi-Engine | Night | Instrument |           | Rotorcraft | Glider | Lighter Than Air |
|-----------------------|---------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------|------------|-----------|------------|--------|------------------|
|                       |         |                     |                        |                       |       | Actual     | Simulated |            |        |                  |
| Total Time            | 2500    | 200                 | 775                    | 485                   | 264   | 108        | 99        | 1275       |        |                  |
| Pilot In Command(PIC) |         |                     |                        |                       |       |            |           |            |        |                  |
| Instructor            |         |                     |                        |                       |       |            |           |            |        |                  |
| Instruction Received  |         |                     |                        |                       |       |            |           |            |        |                  |
| Last 90 Days          |         |                     |                        |                       |       |            |           |            |        |                  |
| Last 30 Days          |         |                     |                        |                       |       |            |           |            |        |                  |
| Last 24 Hours         |         |                     |                        |                       |       |            |           |            |        |                  |

|                    |                            |                          |                  |
|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Seatbelt Used? Yes | Shoulder Harness Used? Yes | Toxicology Performed? No | Second Pilot? No |
|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|

**Flight Plan/Itinerary**

Type of Flight Plan Filed: None

|                           |             |                           |                        |                  |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Departure Point<br>London | State<br>KY | Airport Identifier<br>LOZ | Departure Time<br>1015 | Time Zone<br>EDT |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------|


|                             |             |                           |  |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--|
| Destination<br>Local Flight | State<br>KY | Airport Identifier<br>LOZ |  |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--|

Type of Clearance: None

Type of Airspace:

**Weather Information**


Source of Wx Information:

|  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
|  <p><b>National Transportation Safety Board</b><br/><b>FACTUAL REPORT</b><br/><b>AVIATION</b></p> | NTSB ID: ERA13TA341         |
|  | Occurrence Date: 07/29/2013 |
|  | Occurrence Type: Accident   |

|  |                  |  |                |                                 |                              |
|--|------------------|--|----------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Weather Information</b>                                     |                  |  |                |                                 |                              |
| WOF ID   | Observation Time | Time Zone  | WOF Elevation  | WOF Distance From Accident Site | Direction From Accident Site |
| JKL  | 1053             | EDT  | 1380 Ft. MSL   | 10 NM                           | 210 Deg. Mag.                |
| Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition: Clear                              |                  |  | Ft. AGL        | Condition of Light: Day         |                              |
| Lowest Ceiling: None   |                  | Ft. AGL  | Visibility: 10 | SM                              | Altimeter: 30.21 "Hg         |
| Temperature: 20 °C   | Dew Point: 13 °C | Weather Conditions at Accident Site: Visual Conditions |                |                                 |                              |
| Wind Direction:  |                  | Wind Speed: Calm                                       |                | Wind Gusts:                     |                              |
| Visibility (RVR): Ft.  |                  | Visibility (RVV) SM                                    |                |                                 |                              |
| Precip and/or Obscuration:<br>No Obscuration; No Precipitation |                  |  |                |                                 |                              |

|                             |                       |                          |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Accident Information</b> |                       |                          |
| Aircraft Damage: Destroyed  | Aircraft Fire: Ground | Aircraft Explosion: None |

| - Injury Summary Matrix | Fatal | Serious | Minor | None | TOTAL |
|-------------------------|-------|---------|-------|------|-------|
| First Pilot             |       | 1       |       |      | 1     |
| Second Pilot            |       |         |       |      |       |
| Student Pilot           |       |         |       |      |       |
| Flight Instructor       |       |         |       |      |       |
| Check Pilot             |       |         |       |      |       |
| Flight Engineer         |       |         |       |      |       |
| Cabin Attendants        |       |         |       |      |       |
| Other Crew              |       |         |       |      |       |
| Passengers              |       | 1       |       |      | 1     |
| - TOTAL ABOARD -        |       | 2       |       |      | 2     |
| Other Ground            |       |         |       |      |       |
| - GRAND TOTAL -         |       | 2       |       |      | 2     |

|  |                             |  |
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Administrative Information

Investigator-In-Charge (IIC)

Robert J. Gretz

Additional Persons Participating in This Accident/Incident Investigation:

Chuck Holsclaw  
FAA/FSDO  
Louisville, KY

Darryl Conway  
DEA  
Atlanta, GA