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|--|--|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|---|
|  National Transportation Safety Board PRELIMINARY REPORT AVIATION | | NTSB ID: ERA15LA280 | | Most Critical Injury: None | | |
| | | Occurrence Date: 07/24/2015 | | Investigated By: NTSB | | |
| | | Occurrence Type: Accident | | | | |
| Location/Time | | | | | | |
| Nearest City/Place Vega Baja | | State PR | Zip Code | Local Time 0945 | Time Zone AST | |
| Aircraft Information | | | | | | |
| Registration Number N5842Z | | Aircraft Manufacturer MD HELICOPTER INC | | Model/Series Number 369FF | | |
| Type of Aircraft: Helicopter | | | Amateur Built Aircraft? No | | | |
| Injury Summary: | | Fatal | Serious | Minor | None | 3 |
| Revenue Sightseeing Flight: No | | | Air Medical Transport Flight: No | | | |
| Narrative | | | | | | |
| Brief narrative statement of facts, conditions and circumstances pertinent to the accident/incident: | | | | | | |
| <p>*** Note: NTSB investigators may not have traveled in support of this investigation and used data provided by various sources to prepare this aircraft accident report. ***</p> <p>On July 24, 2015, about 0945 Atlantic standard time, an MD Helicopter Inc. 369FF, N5842Z, was substantially damaged when it impacted shallow water near Vega Baja, Puerto Rico. The commercial pilot, pilot-rated passenger, and another passenger were not injured. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and no flight plan was filed for the flight, which originated from Luis Munoz Marin International Airport (SJU), San Juan, Puerto Rico and was destined for Antonio (Nery) Juarbe Pol Airport (ABO), Arecibo, Puerto Rico. The work use flight was conducted under the provisions of Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91.</p> <p>The helicopter was operated by the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority and was to assist with electrical power distribution system construction. The helicopter departed from SJU and proceeded to the work site, cruising at an altitude of 300 feet, along the northern coast line of Puerto Rico. About 20 minutes into the flight, the pilot heard a loud "bang" emanate from the area of the engine, followed by a second bang 2 to 3 seconds later. The engine then experienced a total loss of power and the pilot responded by entering an autorotative descent. During the descent, the pilot recalled hearing and observing the "low engine rpm" annunciations. The helicopter subsequently impacted an area of shallow water near a beach. During the landing, the main rotor struck the helicopter's tail boom, separating it from the fuselage.</p> <p>Cursory examination of the helicopter's engine revealed that the power section was not free to rotate, and borescope examination revealed thermal damage to the first stage turbine blades. The engine was retained for further examination.</p> <p>Updated on Aug 5 2015 3:37PM</p> | | | | | | |
| PRELIMINARY INFORMATION - SUBJECT TO CHANGE | | | | | | |

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|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Other Aircraft Involved | | |
| Registration Number | Aircraft Manufacturer | Model/Series Number |


| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Accident Information | |
| Aircraft Damage: Substantial | Accident Occurred During: Enroute-cruise |

| Crew | Name | Certificate No. | Injury |
|-------|---------|-----------------|--------|
| Pilot | On File | On File | None |
| 2 | | | |
| 3 | | | |
| 4 | | | |
| 5 | | | |
| 6 | | | |

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|--|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Operator Information | | | |
| Name PUERTO RICO ELECTRIC POWER AUTHORITY | Operator Designator Code | Doing Business As | |
| Street Address PO BOX 37700 | City CAROLINA | State PR | Zip Code 009370700 |
| -Type of Certificate(s) Held: None | | | |
| Air Carrier Operating Certificate(s): | | | |
| Operating Certificate: | | Operator Certificate: | |
| Regulation Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation | | | |
| Type of Flight Operations Conducted: Other Work Use | | | |

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|----------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--|
| Flight Plan/Itinerary | | | |
| Type of Flight Plan Filed: None | | | |
| Last Departure Point SAN JUAN | State PR | Airport Identifier SJU | |
| Destination ARECIBO | State PR | Airport Identifier ABO | |

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|---|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Weather Information | | | |
| Investigator's Source: Weather Observation Facility | Facility ID: TJSJ | Observation Time (Local): 1356 | |
| Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition: Few | | 2900 Ft. AGL | |
| Lowest Ceiling: None | Ft. AGL | Visibility: 10 SM | Altimeter: 30.13 "Hg |

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Weather Information (Continued from page 2)

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|---------------------|------------------|--|--|
| Temperature: 29 °C | Dew Point: 24 °C | Wind Direction: 70 | |
| Wind Speed: 10 Kts. | Gusts: Kts. | Weather Conditions at Accident Site: Visual Conditions | |

Administration Data

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|---|---|
| Notification From FAA Southern C-ROC | Date |
| FAA District Office/Coordinator FAA/FSDO Dennis Ortiz | Investigator-In-Charge (IIC) Dennis Diaz |