

 National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION		NTSB ID: NYC98GA093		Aircraft Registration Number: N551CP	
		Occurrence Date: 04/13/1998		Most Critical Injury: None	
		Occurrence Type: Accident		Investigated By: NTSB	
Location/Time					
Nearest City/Place COLUMBUS		State OH	Zip Code 43229	Local Time 1040	Time Zone EDT
Airport Proximity: Off Airport/Airstrip		Distance From Landing Facility:			
Aircraft Information Summary					
Aircraft Manufacturer McDonnell Douglas		Model/Series 500E /500E		Type of Aircraft 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 either traveled in support of this investigation or conducted a significant amount of investigative work without any travel, and used data obtained from various sources to prepare this public aircraft accident report. ***</p> <p>On April 13, 1998, at 1040 eastern daylight time, a McDonnell Douglas 500E, N551CP, operated by the Columbus City Police Department, was substantially damaged during a forced landing to a city street in Columbus, Ohio. The certificated commercial pilot and two passengers were not injured. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed for the public use flight that originated from the Columbus City Heliport in Columbus, Ohio. A company flight plan was filed for the flight conducted under 14 CFR Part 91.</p> <p>In a written statement, the pilot stated he entered a straight-in autorotation to a street after hearing the engine-out horn sound. He also stated that on short final to the intended touchdown point, he identified wires crossing the helicopter's descent path. In an attempt to avoid the wires, he flared the helicopter, trading airspeed for altitude. Then after passing over the wires, the helicopter started to settle. The pilot increased collective and the helicopter touched down tailrotor first. The main-rotor system then flexed down, severing the tailboom causing substantial damage.</p> <p>The engine, an Allison 250C-203 was inspected in the presence of a FAA Representative. Engine continuity was established and no leaks were found with the engine's pneumatic system. A visual inspection of the engine compartment to include the firewall also revealed no anomalies.</p> <p>The fuel system was examined and no evidence of water or other contaminants were found. The helicopter was fueled from a tank at the Columbus Police Department's Heliport. Three other turbine helicopters received fuel from that same tank in the previous 24 hours, and no problems were reported.</p> <p>The helicopter was ground run for approximately 10 minutes, minus the rotor blades because of accident damage. The engine was started and taken to 103%. When the rotor RPM was reduced to 98% the auto-start engaged and the engine-out audio warning was heard.</p> <p>The manufacture ran the engine under load, and it operated to within operational specifications. Further testing was done on the fuel control, engine governor, and engine driven fuel pump. These accessories also were within the manufacture's performance specifications.</p>					
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Landing Facility/Approach Information					
Airport Name	Airport ID:	Airport Elevation Ft. MSL	Runway Used 0	Runway Length	Runway Width
Runway Surface Type:					
Runway Surface Condition:					
Approach/Arrival Flown: NONE					
VFR Approach/Landing: Forced Landing					
Aircraft Information					
Aircraft Manufacturer McDonnell Douglas		Model/Series 500E /500E		Serial Number 0534E	
Airworthiness Certificate(s): Normal					
Landing Gear Type: Skid					
Amateur Built Acft? No	Number of Seats: 4	Certified Max Gross Wt.	3000 LBS	Number of Engines: 1	
Engine Type: Turbo Shaft	Engine Manufacturer: Allison	Model/Series: 250-C20	Rated Power: 420 HP		
- Aircraft Inspection Information					
Type of Last Inspection Annual	Date of Last Inspection 04/1998	Time Since Last Inspection 30 Hours	Airframe Total Time 1130 Hours		
- Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) Information					
ELT Installed?/Type No	ELT Operated?	ELT Aided in Locating Accident Site?			
Owner/Operator Information					
Registered Aircraft Owner COLUMBUS DIVISION OF POLICE		Street Address 681 WEST 3RD AVENUE			
		City COLUMBUS	State OH	Zip Code 43212	
Operator of Aircraft COLUMBUS DIVISION OF POLICE		Street Address 681 WEST 3RD AVENUE			
		City COLUMBUS	State OH	Zip Code 43212	
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: Part 91: General Aviation					
Type of Flight Operation Conducted: Public Use					
FACTUAL REPORT - AVIATION					

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First Pilot Information

Name On File	City On File	State On File	Date of Birth On File	Age 50
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Sex: M	Seat Occupied: Left	Occupational Pilot? Police	Certificate Number: On File
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Certificate(s): Flight Instructor; Commercial

Airplane Rating(s): None

Rotorcraft/Glider/LTA: Helicopter

Instrument Rating(s): Helicopter

Instructor Rating(s): Helicopter

Current Biennial Flight Review?

Medical Cert.: Class 2	Medical Cert. Status: Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Date of Last Medical Exam: 04/1997
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- 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	7000	46			3892			7000		
Pilot In Command(PIC)	6876	46			3892			6876		
Instructor	153							153		
Instruction Received										
Last 90 Days	39	14						39		
Last 30 Days	11	2						13		
Last 24 Hours										

Seatbelt Used? Yes	Shoulder Harness Used? Yes	Toxicology Performed? No	Second Pilot? No
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Flight Plan/Itinerary

Type of Flight Plan Filed: Company VFR

Departure Point POLICE HELIPORT	State OH	Airport Identifier NONE	Departure Time 1025	Time Zone EDT
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Destination Local Flight	State	Airport Identifier	
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Type of Clearance: None

Type of Airspace:

Weather Information


UAT/CA Source of Wx Information:

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Weather Information					
WOF ID	Observation Time	Time Zone	WOF Elevation	WOF Distance From Accident Site	Direction From Accident Site
KCM	1034	EDT	815 Ft. MSL	10 NM	0 Deg. Mag.
Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition: Scattered			1700 Ft. AGL	Condition of Light: Day	
Lowest Ceiling: Overcast		2500 Ft. AGL	Visibility: 10 SM	Altimeter: 30.00	"Hg
Temperature: 11 °C	Dew Point: -2 °C	Weather Conditions at Accident Site: Visual Conditions			
Wind Direction: 200	Wind Speed: 17	Wind Gusts: 21			
Visibility (RVR): 0 Ft.	Visibility (RVV) 0 SM				
Precip and/or Obscuration:					

Accident Information		
Aircraft Damage: Substantial	Aircraft Fire: None	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				2	2
- TOTAL ABOARD -				3	3
Other Ground	0	0	0		0
- GRAND TOTAL -	0	0	0	3	3

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Administrative Information

Investigator-In-Charge (IIC)

DAVID S. MUZIO

Additional Persons Participating in This Accident/Incident Investigation:

LARRY BOMBORWSKI
COLUMBUS, OH