
 <b>National Transportation Safety Board</b> <b>PRELIMINARY REPORT</b> <b>AVIATION</b>		NTSB ID: WPR12LA328		Most Critical Injury: Serious		
		Occurrence Date: 07/26/2012		Investigated By: NTSB		
		Occurrence Type: Accident				
Location/Time						
Nearest City/Place		State	Zip Code	Local Time	Time Zone	
The Dalles		OR	98617	1520	PDT	
Aircraft Information						
Registration Number		Aircraft Manufacturer		Model/Series Number		
N427WC		HUGHES HELICOPTERS INC		369E		
Type of Aircraft: Helicopter			Amateur Built Aircraft? No			
Injury Summary:		Fatal	Serious	1	Minor	None
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 26, 2012, at 1520 Pacific daylight time, while conducting external load operations, a Hughes 369E helicopter, N427WC, experienced a partial loss of engine power and landed hard 8 miles east of The Dalles, Oregon. Wilson Construction Company operated the helicopter under Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 133. The commercial pilot was seriously injured, and the helicopter was substantially damaged. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and a flight plan had not been filed.</p> <p>The pilot reported to a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) inspector that he was in a hover and began to lift a load of steel cables off the ground when the helicopter lost power. The pilot had a limited memory of the event but said that after the loss of power the helicopter landed hard. Witnesses said they heard a change in the sound of the helicopter, and one witness saw the helicopter impact the ground. Several witnesses said that the engine was still running on the ground after the impact.</p> <p>Updated on Aug 3 2012 1:06PM</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: Maneuvering-hover

Crew	Name	Certificate No.	Injury
Pilot	On File	On File	Serious
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

Operator Information			
Name WILSON CONSTRUCTION CO	Operator Designator Code	Doing Business As	
Street Address	City CANBY	State OR	Zip Code 97013-3441
-Type of Certificate(s) Held:			
Air Carrier Operating Certificate(s):			
Operating Certificate:		Operator Certificate: Aircraft External Load	
Regulation Flight Conducted Under: Part 133: Rotorcraft Ext. Load			
Type of Flight Operations Conducted: External Load			

Flight Plan/Itinerary			
Type of Flight Plan Filed: None			
Last Departure Point	State	Airport Identifier	
Same as Accident/Incident Location		KDLS	
Destination	State	Airport Identifier	
Local Flight	OR	KDLS	

Weather Information			
Investigator's Source: Weather Observation Facility	Facility ID: KDLS	Observation Time (Local): 1453	
Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition: Clear		Ft. AGL	
Lowest Ceiling: None	Ft. AGL	Visibility: 10 SM	Altimeter: 29.80 "Hg

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**Weather Information** (Continued from page 2)

Temperature: 35 °C	Dew Point: 8 °C	Wind Direction: 340	
Wind Speed: 15 Kts.	Gusts: Kts.	Weather Conditions at Accident Site: Visual Conditions	

**Administration Data**

Notification From Federal Aviation Administration	Date
FAA District Office/Coordinator Federal Aviation Administration Bob McMahon	Investigator-In-Charge (IIC) Van McKenny