

National Transportation Safety Board
Washington, DC 20594

Brief of Accident

Adopted 02/20/2002

ANC01LA030
File No. 11389 01/18/2001 Tyonek, AK Aircraft Reg No. N80KA Time (Local): 10:32 AST

Make/Model:	Bell / 206L-1	Fatal	0	Serious	0	Minor/None	1
Engine Make/Model:	Rolls-Royce / 250-C28B	Crew	0				
Aircraft Damage:	Substantial	Pass	0		0		3
Number of Engines:	1						
Operating Certificate(s):	On-demand Air Taxi						
Name of Carrier:	Kenai Air Alaska, Inc.						
Type of Flight Operation:	Non-scheduled; Domestic; Passenger Only						
Reg. Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter						

Last Depart. Point:	Kenai , AK	Condition of Light:	Day
Destination:	Same as Accident/Incident Location	Weather Info Src:	Pilot
Airport Proximity:	Off Airport/Airstrip	Basic Weather:	Visual Conditions
		Lowest Ceiling:	8000 Ft. AGL, Broken
		Visibility:	10.00 SM
		Wind Dir/Speed:	030 / 025 Kts
		Temperature (°C):	1
		Obstr to Vision:	None
		Precipitation:	None

Pilot-in-Command	Age: 44	Flight Time (Hours)
Certificate(s)/Rating(s)		Total All Aircraft: 4564
Airline Transport; Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea; Helicopter		Last 90 Days: 29
Instrument Ratings		Total Make/Model: 163
Airplane; Helicopter		Total Instrument Time: 300

The airline transport certificated helicopter pilot was transporting oil field personnel to an offshore oil producing platform. The pilot said that wind conditions, in conjunction with various platform mounted obstructions, required that he plan his approach to the left side of the helipad, then "side slip" to the right and over the helipad. He said that as he terminated his approach, and moved the helicopter to the right and over the helipad, the tail rotor struck a handrail that was adjacent to the helipad. The helicopter sustained substantial in-flight damage to the tail rotor blades, main rotor blades, and horizontal stabilizer. The pilot reported that wind conditions at the time of the accident were from the northeast at 25 knots.

Brief of Accident (Continued)

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01/18/2001

Tyonek, AK

Aircraft Reg No. N80KA

Time (Local): 10:32 AST

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT

Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

1. (C) CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Findings Legend: (C) = Cause, (F) = Factor

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows.
The pilot's failure to maintain adequate tail rotor clearance while maneuvering to land.