

 National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION		NTSB ID: DCA04MA030		Aircraft Registration Number: N579EH	
		Occurrence Date: 03/23/2004		Most Critical Injury: Fatal	
		Occurrence Type: Accident		Investigated By: NTSB	
Location/Time					
Nearest City/Place Gulf of Mexico		State	Zip Code	Local Time 0001	Time Zone
Airport Proximity: Off Airport/Airstrip		Distance From Landing Facility:		Direction From Airport:	
Aircraft Information Summary					
Aircraft Manufacturer Sikorsky		Model/Series S76A++		Type of Aircraft Helicopter	
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>The Safety Board's full report is available at http://www.nts.gov/publicctn/publicctn.htm. The Aircraft Accident Report number is NTSB/AAR-06/02.</p> <p>On March 23, 2004, about 1918:34 central standard time, an Era Aviation Sikorsky S-76A++ helicopter, N579EH, crashed into the Gulf of Mexico about 70 nautical miles south-southeast of Scholes International Airport (GLS), Galveston, Texas. The helicopter was transporting eight oil service personnel to the Transocean, Inc., drilling ship Discoverer Spirit, which was en route to a location about 180 miles south-southeast of GLS. The captain, copilot, and eight passengers aboard the helicopter were killed, and the helicopter was destroyed by impact forces. The flight was operating under the provisions of 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 135 on a visual flight rules flight plan. Night visual meteorological conditions prevailed at the time of the accident.</p>					
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Landing Facility/Approach Information						
Airport Name Galveston - Shoals		Airport ID: GLS	Airport Elevation Ft. MSL	Runway Used NA	Runway Length	Runway Width
Runway Surface Type:						
Runway Surface Condition:						
Type Instrument Approach: NONE						
VFR Approach/Landing: None						
Aircraft Information						
Aircraft Manufacturer Sikorsky		Model/Series S76A++		Serial Number 760274		
Airworthiness Certificate(s): Transport						
Landing Gear Type: Retractable - Emergency Float; Tricycle						
Homebuilt Aircraft? No		Number of Seats: 12	Certified Max Gross Wt. 10800 LBS		Number of Engines: 2	
Engine Type: Turbo Shaft		Engine Manufacturer: Turbomeca		Model/Series: Arriel 1S1	Rated Power: 825 HP	
- Aircraft Inspection Information						
Type of Last Inspection Continuous Airworthiness		Date of Last Inspection 03/2004	Time Since Last Inspection 5.4 Hours		Airframe Total Time 1069.4 Hours	
- Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) Information						
ELT Installed? Yes		ELT Operated? No		ELT Aided in Locating Accident Site? No		
Owner/Operator Information						
Registered Aircraft Owner Era Aviation, Inc.		Street Address				
		City Anchorage		State AK	Zip Code	
Operator of Aircraft ERA Aviation, Inc.		Street Address				
		City Anchorage		State AK	Zip Code	
Operator Does Business As:			Operator Designator Code:			
- Type of U.S. Certificate(s) Held:						
Air Carrier Operating Certificate(s): Commuter Air Carrier; Flag Carrier/Domestic; Large Helicopter; On-demand Air Taxi						
Operating Certificate:			Operator Certificate: Aircraft External Load			
Regulation Flight Conducted Under: Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter						
Type of Flight Operation Conducted: Non-scheduled; International; Passenger Only						
FACTUAL REPORT - AVIATION						

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	Occurrence Type: Accident

First Pilot Information

Name On File	City On File	State On File	Date of Birth	Age 50
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Sex: M	Seat Occupied: Right	Principal Profession:	Certificate Number: On File
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Certificate(s): Airline Transport

Airplane Rating(s):

Rotorcraft/Glider/LTA: Helicopter

Instrument Rating(s): Helicopter

Instructor Rating(s): None

Type Rating/Endorsement for Accident/Incident Aircraft? Yes	Current Biennial Flight Review? 01/2004
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Medical Cert.: Class 1	Medical Cert. Status: Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Date of Last Medical Exam: 05/2003
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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	7288	1489			1028	350	493	7288		
Pilot In Command(PIC)	5323	1453			1028		167	5323		
Instructor										
Last 90 Days	64	64			2					
Last 30 Days	32	32			2					
Last 24 Hours	0	0								

Seatbelt Used? Yes	Shoulder Harness Used? Yes	Toxicology Performed? Yes	Second Pilot? Yes
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Flight Plan/Itinerary

Type of Flight Plan Filed: Company VFR

Departure Point Galveston	State TX	Airport Identifier GLS	Departure Time 1845	Time Zone CST
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Destination AC738	State	Airport Identifier	
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Type of Clearance: None

Type of Airspace: Class E

Weather Information

Source of Briefing:
Internet

Method of Briefing: Telephone

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Weather Information

WOF ID	Observation Time	Time Zone	WOF Elevation Ft. MSL	WOF Distance From Accident Site NM	Direction From Accident Site Deg. Mag.
Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition: Thin Broken			4700 Ft. AGL	Condition of Light: Night/Dark	
Lowest Ceiling:		Ft. AGL	Visibility: 10	SM	Altimeter: "Hg
Temperature: 19 °C	Dew Point: 16 °C	Wind Direction: 120		Density Altitude: Ft.	
Wind Speed: 12	Gusts:	Weather Conditions at Accident Site: Visual Conditions			
Visibility (RVR): Ft.	Visibility (RVV)	SM	Intensity of Precipitation:		
Restrictions to Visibility: None					
Type of Precipitation: None					

Accident Information

Aircraft Damage: Destroyed	Aircraft Fire: None	Aircraft Explosion: None
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Classification: U.S. Registered/U.S. Soil

- Injury Summary Matrix	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None	TOTAL
First Pilot	1				1
Second Pilot	1				1
Student Pilot					
Flight Instructor					
Check Pilot					
Flight Engineer					
Cabin Attendants					
Other Crew					
Passengers	8				8
- TOTAL ABOARD -	10				10
Other Ground					
- GRAND TOTAL -	10				10

National Transportation Safety Board

FACTUAL REPORT

AVIATION



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Occurrence Date: 03/23/2004

Occurrence Type: Accident

Administrative Information

Investigator-In-Charge (IIC)

Lorenda Ward

Additional Persons Participating in This Accident/Incident Investigation:

Bob Drake