



National Transportation Safety Board

Loss of Control on Takeoff

Investigator-in-Charge
presentation



Accident Flight

- July 3, 2015
- Airbus Helicopters AS350 B3e
- Air Methods Corporation
- Frisco, Colorado
- Pilot fatally injured
- Two flight nurses seriously injured
- Helicopter destroyed by impact and fire

Accident Summary

- Left rotation at takeoff
- No hover check
- Impact with recreational vehicle and parking lot
- Fuel-fed postcrash fire

Fuel-fed Postcrash Fire

20 seconds
after impact



Fuel-fed Postcrash Fire

40 seconds
after impact



Fuel-fed Postcrash Fire

60 seconds
after impact



Investigation

- Pilot certificated and qualified
- Helicopter properly certificated, equipped, and maintained
- Left yaw controllable with reported winds at time of takeoff

Safety Issues

- Concerns with AS350-series dual hydraulic system design
- Need for consumer information regarding helicopter crashworthiness
- Need for crash-resistant fuel systems
- Lack of requirements for crash-resistant recorders

Parties to Investigation

- Federal Aviation Administration
- Air Methods Corporation
- Professional Helicopter Pilots Association International

Annex 13 Participants

- Bureau d'Enquêtes et d'Analyses pour la Sécurité de l'Aviation Civile (BEA)
 - Airbus Helicopters
 - Turbomeca

Other Assistance

- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Summit County (Colorado) Sheriff's Office
- St. Anthony Summit Medical Center
- Local police departments
- Local fire departments



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