Survival Flight Inc.
Bell 407
January 29, 2019
Zaleski, Ohio

Investigator-in-Charge presentation
Accident Flight

- Pilot, nurse, and paramedic fatally injured
- Viking Aviation LLC, dba Survival Flight Inc.
- Part 135 visual flight rules helicopter air ambulance (HAA) flight
Accident Sequence

• First operator was contacted, declined citing “icing probability” and snow squalls
• Second operator was contacted, deferred for weather check
• Survival Flight was contacted, accepted flight in 28 seconds
• Second operator called back to decline flight due to “low ceilings and icing”
Accident Flight

• Night shift pilot accepted flight request
• Accident pilot agreed to fly it
  • Proceeded directly to helipad
  • Declined night vision goggles (NVGs)
• Night shift pilot notified medical crew, proceeded to helipad for preflight, engine start
Exclusions

- Pilot properly certificated
- Pilot performance not affected by medical conditions, toxins, alcohol, or other drugs
- No evidence of preimpact airframe, engine, rotor, or system anomalies or malfunction
Safety Issues

• Survival Flight’s lack of comprehensive and effective flight risk assessment, risk management procedures

• Lack of helicopter or HAA experience requirement for FAA principal operations inspectors assigned HAA oversight
Safety Issues

• Need for flight data monitoring programs for Part 135 operators
• Lack of positive safety culture at Survival Flight
• No comprehensive safety management system at Survival Flight
Safety Issues

• Need for improvements to helicopter emergency medical services (HEMS)

Weather Tool

• Need for required crash-resistant flight recorder system that records cockpit audio, video
• Not crash-resistant or -protected
• Accident flight: about 30 seconds of data not recovered
• Reiterate safety recommendations for crash-resistant flight recorder systems (A-13-12 and -13)
Parties to the Investigation

- Federal Aviation Administration
- Survival Flight Inc.
- Rolls-Royce Engines
- Woodward Inc.
ICAO Annex 13 Participants

Transportation Safety Board of Canada
Bell Textron Inc.