Island Express Helicopters Inc.

- Certificated for on-demand day and night, VFR-only flights
- 25 employees, 6 helicopters
- 495 charter flights in 2019
Pilot

• Certificated, current, and qualified for VFR
• Highly experienced (8,577 hours flying)
  • 1,250 hours Sikorsky S-76-series helicopters
  • 75 hours instrument flying experience
• Healthy and well-rested
Training

• Indoctrination through Sikorsky S-76 training
  • Aeronautical decision making and judgment
  • Instrument procedures
  • Unusual attitudes
  • Inadvertent entry into instrument meteorological conditions (IMC)
  • Spatial disorientation
• Chief pilot: Supervised and trained other pilots
• Check airman: Evaluated other Sikorsky S-76 pilots
Altitude and Weather Minimums

Island Express’ Policy

• Altitude
  • No lower than 300 ft agl, recommended 500 ft to 1,000 ft agl
• Visibility
  • 1 nautical mile

Part 135 Regulation

• Altitude
  • No lower than 300 ft agl
• Visibility
  • 1/2 mile for day
  • 1 mile for night
Preflight Mission Planning

- Flights conducted per federal regulations
- Obtain weather brief via approved sources
- Flight risk assessment completed: Low-risk
- Developed plan to avoid clouds
- Filed company flight plan
Trained Actions for After Entering IMC

- Level the helicopter
- Maintain heading
- Climb power 70-75%
- Climb airspeed 75-80 knots
Pilot’s Actions Before, After Entering Clouds

• Maintained high airspeed while advancing toward cloud layer
• Entered clouds
• Began rapid climb of about 1,500 ft per minute
• Did not declare an emergency