

No: 3/90

Ref: EW/G90/01/03

Category: 2c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Hughes 269C, G-BMGP

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming HIO-360-D1A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1978

Date and Time (UTC): 21 January 1990 at 1056 hrs

Location: Staverton Airport, Gloucestershire

Type of Flight: Training

Persons on Board: Crew - 2 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Right rear skid collapsed with consequent damage to beacon and VHF aerial

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence with full Instructor Rating

Commander's Age: 39 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 4,479 hours (of which 42 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

Whilst demonstrating an autorotative landing, the instructor selected the landing area and entered autorotation at 500 feet and 60 kt. At 300 feet, when sure that they could land on the selected spot, he closed the throttle and, at about 70 feet, initiated a gentle flare so as to ensure a very slow touchdown speed. The wind was reported as 220°/ 15 kt gusting 25 kt.

At about 50 feet the helicopter descended rapidly and despite levelling the attitude and using all the collective pitch available, the instructor was unable to prevent a heavy landing which collapsed the tail end of the right skid.

The instructor stated that windshear was the cause of the sudden uncommanded descent.