

Aircraft Type and Registration: Hughes 369HS, G-GASA

No & Type of Engines: 1 Allison 250-C20 free turbine engine

Year of Manufacture: 1973

Date and Time (UTC): 13 April 1988 at 1730 hrs

Location: Crubenmore, Glen Truim, Scotland

Type of Flight: Aerial work (lifting)

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Aircraft destroyed

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence (Helicopters)

Commander's Age: 40 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 3006.33 hours (of which 40.05 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The helicopter was carrying out a series of lifts with the loads attached to a two metre stop and swivel. After refuelling a light load of internal fittings was to be carried and the pilot checked with the loader that the weight was at least 112 lbs otherwise ballasting to that weight would have been required.

After lift off using about 48% power the load was visible in the load mirror. During transition and while passing over a 30 foot bank beside the River Truim a wind gust could be seen on the water. As the gust struck the helicopter the load swung back out of the mirror's arc of view. An attempt was made to jettison the load whilst applying power to increase the climb rate when a bump was felt on the rear of the airframe followed by loss of tail rotor control. The throttle was closed and an emergency landing attempted as the fuselage rotated through 2½ turns anticlockwise before striking the ground in a level attitude. One rotor blade hit the right side of the cockpit as the helicopter bounced and finally came to rest 12 feet further to the right.

No injuries were received by the pilot but he was wearing a military style flight helmet which was scratched when the cockpit perspex was broken.