

AAIB Bulletin No: 10/93

Ref: EW/G93/08/13

Category: 2.2

Aircraft Type and Registration: Aerospatiale SA365N Dauphin, G-HEMS

No & Type of Engines: 2 Turbomeca Arriel 1C turboshaft engines

Year of Manufacture: 1981

Date & Time (UTC): 13 August 1993 at 1055 hrs

Location: Elthorne Park, London NW1

Type of Flight: Public Transport

Persons on Board: Crew - 4 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Damage to the left vertical stabiliser, left main landing gear door and left wheel brake hose. The horizontal stabiliser and the rear navigation light fairing were also damaged.

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 49 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 6,751 hours (of which 843 were on type)
Last 90 days - 74 hours
Last 28 days - 23 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

During a medical evacuation operation the helicopter was parked at the top of a small slope, with the parking brake 'ON' and with the rotors stopped. Whilst the medical team were away attending to the patient, the pilot, who was standing beside the cockpit door, made regular checks of the brake pressure which, at the last reading, indicated 108 bars. Two minutes later, the medical team returned to the helicopter with the patient and, as they were boarding, the pilot heard a creak and thought that the helicopter moved slightly. He quickly checked the brake pressure and, seeing that it now indicated zero, ran to the nose panel of the helicopter to recharge the system. He was, however, unable to open the nose panel because the helicopter suddenly rolled backwards and accelerated down the slope, striking a park bench and pushing the tail assembly into some bushes.

Subsequent examination revealed an intermittent internal leak in the parking brake control valve assembly.