

No: 8/85

Ref: EW/G85/07/01

Aircraft type and registration: Hiller UH-12E G-BEFX (light single engined helicopter)

Year of Manufacture: 1962

Date and time (GMT): 3 July 1985 at 1525 hrs

Location: Bavinge, nr Folkestone, Kent

Type of flight: Aerial application

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — None

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — None

Nature of damage: Tail motor damaged; cyclic linkages broken

Commander's Licence: Commercial Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 32 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 7271 hours (of which 1202 hours were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot.

The helicopter was on an aerial application flight over a cultivated field. The field was bounded on the eastern side by high tension cables, farm buildings and trees, and by parallel lines of telephone wires which crossed the northern and southern edges. The pilot reports that he had been provided with a map of the area on which the main obstructions had been marked, but the position of the telephone lines was not included. On arriving overhead the field he visually confirmed the position of the marked obstructions, and decided to make spray runs in a northerly direction, commencing along the western edge of the field.

The southern most lines of telephone wires were noticed as the first spray run was commenced, but the pilot reports that he did not see the second line of wires until he was so close as to being committed to flying through them. The wire strike broke the cyclic control linkages causing the helicopter to pitch nose-up. The pilot closed the throttle and in the subsequent landing the tail rotor struck the ground. There was no further damage and the pilot vacated the aircraft without injury.