

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Robinson R22 Beta, G-DODR	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-320-B2C piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1990	
Date & Time (UTC):	14 December 2007 at 1125 hrs	
Location:	Cranfield Aerodrome, Bedfordshire	
Type of Flight:	Training	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 2	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - 1 (Minor)	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Substantial	
Commander's Licence:	Commercial Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	33 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	447 hours (of which 340 were on type) Last 90 days - 26 hours Last 28 days - 15 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

The student pilot was conducting an early hovering exercise when the aircraft's right skid came into contact with the ground and the aircraft rolled over. The aircraft was extensively damaged. The student pilot was uninjured and his instructor received only minor injuries.

History of the flight

The student pilot and his instructor were conducting an early hovering exercise. The weather conditions were described as suitable, and the aircraft was positioned over a large clear area with good visual references. The student had already demonstrated his ability to control simultaneously the aircraft's heading with the yaw pedals and its height with the collective, when he progressed onto cyclic control. For this exercise the student had control

of the cyclic and attempted to maintain his position over the ground, whilst the instructor had responsibility for maintaining the aircraft's height and heading.

The instructor described the student's progress as good. Whenever the student drifted from the allocated area the instructor took full control and repositioned the aircraft in the centre of the area, allowing the student to take control of the cyclic again, from a stable hover. During this hover exercise the right skid made contact with the ground and the aircraft rolled over, coming to rest on its left side. The instructor switched the aircraft battery power off, selected the fuel mixture to lean and both occupants then exited the aircraft. The emergency services were quickly on the scene and took the crew

to hospital where they were released a short time later. The aircraft suffered substantial damage.

Comment

The primary responsibility of an instructor is, as the captain of the aircraft, to ensure the safety of the aircraft

and its crew. From this safe environment the instructor must then teach the student. It appears that, on this occasion, the instructor allowed himself to become overly focussed on the training.