

No: 7/90

Ref: EW/G90/05/14

Category: 2c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Enstrom 280C, G-COPE

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming HIO-360-E1AD piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1976

Date and Time (UTC): 7 May 1990 at 1735 hrs

Location: Brewers Oak, near Shifnal, Shropshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 2

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Damage to all three main rotor blades, bent mast, tail cone and drive shaft broken

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence (H)

Commander's Age: 36 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 84 hours (of which 66 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

Prior to the accident the helicopter had been parked for two days in a slightly sloping grass field. Following start up, it was necessary for the pilot to turn the helicopter to face into wind before take-off. This necessitated a sloping ground lift-off which was accomplished successfully but the pilot then found that the helicopter was in an overpitched condition so he decided to land from the hover in order to recover rotor and engine rpm to within normal operating limits. In fact the helicopter descended rapidly so that the pilot was unable to prevent the front of the left skid striking the ground with sufficient force to buckle the support stay. The helicopter then tilted to the left allowing the main rotor to strike the ground and it yawed through 180° before coming to rest supported by the main rotor blades resting on the ground. The pilot and his two passengers were able to leave the helicopter unaided. Although the fire service attended the scene there was no fire.