



AVIATION



HIGHWAY



MARINE



RAILROAD



PIPELINE

## Aviation Investigation Preliminary Report

<b>Location:</b>	Eagle Lake, TX	<b>Accident Number:</b>	CEN24LA271
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	July 16, 2024, 00:55 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N609RP
<b>Aircraft:</b>	McDonnell Douglas Helicopter 600N	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Serious, 4 Minor, 1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Public aircraft		

On July 15, 2024, at 0055 central daylight time, a McDonnell Douglas Helicopter 600N, N609RP, was destroyed when it was involved in an accident near Eagle Lake, Texas. The commercial pilot was uninjured, one passenger received serious injuries, and four passengers received minor injuries. The helicopter was operated as a public use flight for law enforcement training.

The pilot stated that during a low altitude flight, he heard a bang and a low rotor rpm. The helicopter experienced a total loss of engine power. The pilot performed an autorotation during which the helicopter was destroyed due to an impact with terrain.

Postaccident examination of the helicopter confirmed flight control continuity. There was approximately 20 gallons of fuel drained from the helicopter during its recovery to a salvage facility.

The helicopter wreckage was retained for further examination.

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	McDonnell Douglas Helicopter	<b>Registration:</b>	N609RP
<b>Model/Series:</b>	600N	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Helicopter
<b>Amateur Built:</b>			
<b>Operator:</b>	Last Shadow	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None
<b>Operator Designator Code:</b>			

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	VMC	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Night
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	ELA, 184 ft msl	<b>Observation Time:</b>	
<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	4 Nautical Miles	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	23°C / 23°C
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>	/ ,
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility:</b>	10 miles
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29.98 inches Hg	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Eagle Lake, TX	<b>Destination:</b>	Eagle Lake, TX

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 Serious, 4 Minor	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 Serious, 4 Minor, 1 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	29,-96 (est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Gallo, Mitchell
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Phillip Powell; Federal Aviation Administration, Houston FSDO; Houston, TX Jack Johnson; Rolls Royce; Indianapolis, IN
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class 3</a>
<b>Note:</b>	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.