

No: 9/91

Ref: EW/G91/07/03

Category: 2c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Schweizer 269C, G-BREJ

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming HIO-360-D1A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1989

Date & Time (UTC): 1 July 1991 at 1447 hrs

Location: Oxford Airport

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Helicopter destroyed

Commander's Licence: FAA Commercial Pilot's License (Airplanes)
Student Pilot (Helicopters)

Commander's Age: 37 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 55 hours rotary wing (of which 15 were on type)
and 833 hours fixed wing

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the
operating company's Flight Safety Officer and
information gathered by the company inquiry

The student pilot had completed three successful solo circuits and landings supervised by his instructor who was standing close to the touchdown point of the active runway 20. The wind was light and variable and the temperature was 19°C.

The instructor watched the student make a fourth circuit with a steady approach to the hover and bent down to pick up his headset and kneeboard. However, hearing a sudden change in the engine note he looked back to see the helicopter twisting rapidly to the right and pitching violently. It then hit the ground heavily, tail first, and broke up. The fuselage came to rest lying on its left side and the student was assisted from the wreckage by the instructor.

The student later stated that he was turning the helicopter into wind in the hover when it began to drift sideways and that he was subsequently unable to control the aircraft, despite applying the corrective actions which he had rehearsed with his instructor that morning.