

No: 4/83

Ref: EW/G83/03/05

Aircraft: Enstrom 280C N 581H (light single engine helicopter)

Year of Manufacture: 1976

Date and time (GMT): 15 March 1983 at 1410 hrs

Location: Rye End Farm, Kimpton, Nr St Albans

Type of flight: Private

Persons on board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - Nil Passengers - Nil

Nature of damage: Damage to tail boom, tail rotor and main rotor blades

Commander's Licence: Commercial Pilot's Licence (FAA)

Commander's Age: 39 years

Commander's total flying experience: 2986 hours (of which 51 were on type)

The pilot, a qualified helicopter instructor (FAA), was practicing autorotative landings in a field belonging to his passenger. After carrying out two successful practices, a third was attempted but on touch down the left skid spread out. The helicopter turned left through about 40 degrees and the main rotor flexed downward and struck the tail boom. After the accident the pilot considered that the surface of the field was not sufficiently smooth for this type of training.