

 <b>National Transportation Safety Board</b> <b>PRELIMINARY REPORT</b> <b>AVIATION</b>		NTSB ID: LAX07LA210		Most Critical Injury: Minor	
		Occurrence Date: 07/08/2007		Investigated By: NTSB	
		Occurrence Type: Accident		ICAO Report Submitted:	
Location/Time					
Nearest City/Place		State	Zip Code	Local Time	Time Zone
Los Olivos		CA	93012	1608	PDT
Aircraft Information					
Registration Number		Aircraft Manufacturer		Model/Series Number	
N44094		Aviation International Rotors		CH-54A	
Type of Aircraft: Helicopter			Homebuilt Aircraft? No		
Injury Summary:		Fatal	Serious	Minor	2
					None
Sightseeing Flight: No			Air Medical Transport Flight: No		
Narrative					
Brief narrative statement of facts, conditions and circumstances pertinent to the accident/incident:					
<p>On July 8, 2007, about 1608 Pacific daylight time, an Aviation International Rotors CH-54A, N44094, experienced a mechanical malfunction and rolled over during takeoff from a helibase about 4 miles north of Los Olivos, California. The helicopter was operated by Heavy Lift Helicopters, Inc., Apple Valley, California, under a "call when needed" contract for the California Department of Forestry &amp; Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). The purpose of the flight was to support CAL FIRE's wildland fire suppression activities of dispersing retardant on a fire in Santa Barbara County. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and a company flight plan had been filed. The helicopter was substantially damaged. The airline transport certificated pilot and the commercial certificated copilot sustained minor injuries. The flight was performed under the provisions of 14 CFR Part 133, and it was originating at the time of the accident.</p> <p>Witnesses reported that while the helicopter was on the ground at the southeast corner of the Figueroa Helibase on spot number 2, and at operating power, the helicopter began an uncommanded slow rollover to the right. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) coordinator examined the helicopter at the accident site.</p> <p>The FAA coordinator reported to the National Transportation Safety Board investigator that components, which secure one of the three main rotor blade pitch change servo units to the helicopter, were found about 6 feet away from the main wreckage. The components consisted of a nut, bolt, pin, and plate. This assembly secures one of the servo units to the helicopter transmission on one end and the helicopter swash plate on the other end. The FAA coordinator additionally reported that the integrity of this assembly is critical to flight safety, and separation of the servo unit will result in loss of main rotor blade pitch control.</p>					
PRELIMINARY INFORMATION - SUBJECT TO CHANGE					

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<b>Other Aircraft Involved</b>			
Registration Number	Aircraft Manufacturer	Model/Series Number	
<b>Accident Information</b>			
Aircraft Damage: Substantial		Accident Occurred During: Takeoff	
Property Damage:			
Crew	Name	Certificate No.	Injury
Pilot	On File	On File	Minor
2	On File	On File	Minor
3			
4			
5			
6			
<b>Operator Information</b>			
Name Heavy Lift Helicopters, Inc.		Operator Designator Code H3VL	Doing Business As
Street Address 13463 Nomwaket		City Apple Valley	State CA
			Zip Code 92308
-Type of Certificate(s) Held:			
Air Carrier Operating Certificate(s):			
Operating Certificate:		Operator Certificate: Aircraft External Load	
Regulation Flight Conducted Under: Part 133: Rotorcraft Ext. Load			
Type of Flight Operations Conducted: Fire Fighting			
<b>Flight Plan/Itinerary</b>			
Type of Flight Plan Filed: Company VFR			
Last Departure Point		State	Airport Identifier
Same as Accident/Incident Location			
Destination		State	Airport Identifier
Same as Accident/Incident Location			
<b>Weather Information</b>			
Investigator's Source:		Facility ID:	Observation Time (Local):
Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition: Clear		Ft. AGL	
Lowest Ceiling: None	Ft. AGL	Visibility: 10 SM	Altimeter: "Hg
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**Weather Information** (Continued from page 2)

Temperature: 28 °C	Dew Point: °C	Wind Direction: Variable	
Wind Speed: Light and Variable	Gusts: Kts.	Weather Conditions at Accident Site: Visual Conditions	

**Administration Data**

Notification From AWP-6 Operations Center	Date 07/08/2007	Local Time
FAA District Office/Coordinator WP-FSDO Van Nuys, CA Bruce Borden	Investigator-In-Charge (IIC) Wayne Pollack	