



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

Location:	Stuttgart, AR	Accident Number:	CEN18FA033
Date & Time:	11/19/2017, 1855 CST	Registration:	N620PA
Aircraft:	BELL HELICOPTER TEXTRON CANADA 407	Injuries:	3 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Positioning - Air Medical (Discretionary)		

On November 19, 2017, about 1855 central standard time, a Bell 407 helicopter, N620PA, impacted terrain near Stuttgart, Arkansas. The pilot and two medical crew members were fatally injured, and the helicopter was substantially damaged. The helicopter was registered to and operated by Air Methods under the provisions of 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91 as a positioning flight. Night visual meteorological conditions prevailed for the flight, which operated on a company visual flight rules flight plan. The flight originated from Pines Bluff, Arkansas, and was en route to pick up a patient in Helena, Arkansas.

Residents near the accident site reported hearing a boom and seeing a fire plume. Local law enforcement located the wreckage on private property on the bank of a reservoir. A post impact fire consumed a majority of the fuselage. All major helicopter components were located at the accident site. Several bird carcasses were located in the wreckage of the helicopter.

The helicopter was retained for further examination.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	BELL HELICOPTER TEXTRON CANADA	Registration:	N620PA
Model/Series:	407 NO SERIES	Aircraft Category:	Helicopter
Amateur Built:	No		
Operator:	AIR METHODS CORP	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand Air Taxi (135)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	SGT, 223 ft msl	Observation Time:	0056 UTC
Distance from Accident Site:	19 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	7° C / -2° C
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	4 knots, 360°
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility:	10 Miles
Altimeter Setting:	30.23 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	Company VFR
Departure Point:	Pines Bluff, AR	Destination:	Helena, AR

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	3 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	On-Ground
Total Injuries:	3 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	34.284444, -91.543889

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Jason T Aguilera
Additional Participating Persons:	David Gerlach; Federal Aviation Administration; Washington, DC Shane Benedetto; Federal Aviation Administration; Little Rock, AR Jack Johnson; Rolls-Royce; Indianapolis, IN Mike Stacey; Air Methods; Englewood, CO
Note:	The NTSB traveled to the scene of this accident.