
LANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
NEWS RELEASE



CASE NUMBER: 10-9292
DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 12/31/2010 at 12:14 PM
DATE/TIME OF RELEASE: 12/31/2010 at 4:00 PM
NATURE OF STORY: Emergency Landing of Sheriff's Helicopter
LOCATION: Field off Bailey Hill Rd near Warren Street, Eugene

DETAILS:

The Lane County Sheriff's helicopter made a safe, emergency landing near Churchill High School after an apparent bird strike during a training flight. The helicopter was staffed by two Sheriff's Office volunteers who are both pilots. The pilot in command of the aircraft has over 1500 hours of flight time in this type of aircraft.

The aircraft was at about 1800 feet when it appears that a large bird struck the tail rotor causing it to stop functioning properly. The aircraft's engine shut down and the pilot was successful in landing the craft in an open grassy field south of Churchill High School, west of Bailey Hill Road, near Warrant Street. There were no injuries and there was no property damage. The pilot estimated that about 8 seconds elapsed from the time of the tail rotor malfunction to the time that the aircraft was safely landed.

The aircraft will be trailered back to the hangar and undergo a complete mechanical evaluation.

Prepared by: Sergeant Cliff Harrold