

SYNOPSIS

Type of occurrence:	Serious incident
Date:	23 August 2007
Location:	Mannheim
Type of aircraft:	Helicopter
Manufacturer / Model:	EUROCOPTER / EC135 P2+
Injuries to persons:	No injured persons
Damage to aircraft:	Aircraft not damaged
Other damage:	None
Source of information:	Investigation by BFU

History of the flight

At 10:36 a.m.¹ the Air Rescue Center was alarmed for a primary rescue operation. The pilot and the paramedic entered the helicopter, standing on the helicopter transport platform and connected to the outboard power supply. According to the statements of the pilot and the emergency physician, the emergency physician stood outside the helicopter and monitored the starting of the engines. After a hand signal of the pilot, he pulled out the connector of the outboard power supply. He closed the flap at the helicopter and placed the connector on the floor in front of the platform. After that, the paramedic entered the helicopter and reported the cabin ready for take-off.

According to the statement of the pilot and the observation of the external witnesses, the pilot now wanted to take off for the operation. He brought the helicopter to a hovering position vertically above the platform and then tilted forward in order to gain forward speed. During acceleration, suddenly a steep “nose down” attitude occurred; according to external witnesses, it was up to 80 degrees, and the rotor blade tips were only approximately 1 m away from the ground. In this attitude, the helicopter platform was dragged. After that, the helicopter rolled to the right around the longitudinal axis; during this, an additional turn to the right of 180 degrees around its vertical axis occurred. In this process, the cable of the outboard power supply, jammed between the cross beam and the right skid, was released. Afterwards the helicopter could be landed normally.

¹ All times given are in local time unless indicated differently.