



**NTSB** National Transportation Safety Board

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*Office of Aviation Safety*

**Pyote, Texas**  
**March 21, 2004**







# History of Flight

- No weather briefing prior to flight
- Transporting infant between hospitals
- Provided position reports to hospital dispatch
- About 35 minutes into the flight, position report, then communication lost

# History of Flight

- Approximately 1 hour later, hospital dispatch notified local authorities of possible downed helicopter
- Ground search and rescue began
- Air search and rescue delayed due to poor weather



# Weather Conditions

- Severe thunderstorms
- Wind gusts
- Brown-out conditions and reduced visibility
- Dark night, no moon

# Flight Dispatch Procedures

- No flight dispatch
- No weather information obtained prior to departure
- Hospital dispatch
- SIGMET indicated thunderstorms along flight path
- Updated weather information not provided



# Other Issues

- No flight risk evaluation
- No Terrain Awareness and Warning System



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