

# Airplane, Helicopter and Hot Air Balloon Accidents Due to Overhead Power Lines

Prepared by: Responsible Electricity Transmission for Albertans (RETA). Updated Sept. 10, 2014.

**Note:** These and thousands of similar accidents could have been prevented, or impacts could have been reduced, if power lines were buried like all of our other utilities.

**Sept 9, 2014:** Watertown, Connecticut, USA: A pilot weaved his small aircraft over and under power lines to avoid hitting them, but his plane ended up crashing into a field. The plane landed backwards against a group of trees. The pilot was not injured. ([NBC Connecticut](#) Sept 9/14)

**Sept 6, 2014:** South of Macedonia, Iowa, USA: Pilot was crop dusting a bean field when his helicopter struck a power line and crashed into the bank of a cropland terrace. The pilot was seriously injured and the remnants of the helicopter were a heap of metal that did not even resemble a chopper. ([World-Herald News Service](#) Sept 6/14)

**Sept 2, 2014:** Willows, California, USA: MD500D helicopter came down during low-level power line work. (HeliHub)

**Aug 27, 2014:** North of Middleton, Tennessee, USA: Agricultural Cessna A188B Agtruck struck power lines and crashed, killing the pilot. (AircrashConsult)

**Aug 25, 2014:** Burgenland, Austria: Piper PA 18 plane hit power lines and crashed, bursting into flames and killing the pilot who was scaring away starlings from vineyards. ([Shanghai Daily](#) Aug 26/14)

**Aug 23, 2014:** Frystak, Czech Republic: Ultralight aircraft hit power lines and crashed, killing the pilot. (AircrashConsult)

**Aug 19, 2014:** Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, USA: Two people were killed when a McDonnell Douglas 369E helicopter severed a transmission line shield wire and crashed between 2 transmission towers upside down and in 3 pieces. An Alabama Power employee and the pilot had been scoping out problems with a transmission line in the Blue Creek area, when their helicopter hit the power line. ([Tuscaloosa News](#) Sept 5/14)

**Mid-Aug, 2014:** Brits, South Africa: A helicopter crashed into power lines when a young couple was being transported to a matric dance at the Fatherlands Estate. Nobody was injured. ([Traveller 24](#) Aug 20/14)

**Aug 13, 2014:** Braithwaite, Louisiana, USA: Cessna U206E Stationair floatplane hit a power line during a forced landing. (AircrashConsult)

**Aug 13, 2014:** South of Lancaster, Wisconsin, USA: Robinson R44 helicopter crashed after its main rotor hit power lines. The pilot was spraying insecticide over a soybean field. He sustained minor injuries. ([WCINET](#) Aug 13/14)

**Aug 12, 2014:** Mansfield, Illinois, USA: Crop-dusting helicopter clipped a power line and crashed into a bean field, killing the pilot. ([The News-Gazette](#) Aug 13/14)

**Aug 10, 2014:** Standish, Maine, USA: Christian Eagle 540 bi-plane hit power lines during a forced landing on a road. The pilot received minor injuries. (AircrashConsult)

**Aug 2, 2014:** Hossna, Sweden: Eiri-Avion PIK-20D struck a power line and crashed in a field. (AircrashConsult)

**Aug 1, 2014:** Kinnitty, Ireland: Robinson R44 Raven helicopter hit power lines on approach and crashed in a field. The pilot was injured. (AircrashConsult)

**July 31, 2014:** Northeast Nebraska, USA: A crop-dusting Robinson R44 helicopter crashed after hitting power lines, seriously injuring the pilot and knocking out power to several surrounding towns. ([KTIV](#) July 31/14)

**July 20, 2014:** Burrumbuttock, Australia: Cessna 182L Skylane hit power lines and crashed into a paddock. The pilot was killed. (AircrashConsult)

**July 19, 2014:** Clinton, Massachusetts, USA: Colt Balloons 160A hot air balloon hit power lines and caught fire, injuring 5 people with minor to severe burns. About 600 National Grid customers in the area lost power for about 12 hours. ([Fox News](#) July 21/14)

**July 18, 2014:** Merced, California, USA: Bell 47G2A helicopter hit power lines and crashed in a watermelon field during crop spraying. The pilot was seriously injured and the aircraft was destroyed by post-impact fire. (HeliHub)

**July 17, 2014:** W of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, USA: Magni M-16 gyrocopter hit power lines and crashed, injuring the pilot. (AircrashConsult)

**July 15, 2014:** Donskoe, Russia: Light plane struck power lines and crashed into a river, injuring the pilot. (AircrashConsult)

**July 13, 2014:** Staraye Chenitsy, Russia: A young female parachutist fell onto power lines and died. (AircrashConsult)

**July 11, 2014:** Indianapolis, Indiana, USA: Mooney M20M TLS crashed into a back yard of a home near the Greenwood Municipal Airport. The pilot was killed and 2 people on the ground were injured by downed power lines. (AircrashConsult)

**July 8, 2014:** Baytown, Texas, USA: Cessna 172 crashed shortly after takeoff. The plane crashed into a transmission line, flipped over and then came down on a baseball field in Jenkins Park. All 3 occupants were airlifted to hospital and were in serious condition. The power went out in parts of the surrounding area. ([ABC 13](#) July 8/14)

**June 21, 2014:** Staromavrinskoe, Russia: RA-3121K Mi-2 helicopter hit power lines during agricultural operations. Both pilots were seriously injured. (HeliHub)

**June 20, 2014:** Rovenskiy, Saratov Oblast, Russia: An agricultural Spectr-Aero SP-30M plane hit power lines and crashed, killing the pilot. (AircrashConsult)

**June 20, 2014:** Agua Dulce, Los Angeles County, California, USA: Small airplane became entangled in power lines and crashed onto a road, hospitalizing both individuals on board. ([KHTS](#) June 20/14)

**June 17, 2014:** Sapozhkovskij, Ryazan Oblast, Russia: Lilienthal X-32 Bekas Mix-2 single-engine ultralight struck power lines and crashed. (AircrashConsult)

**June 9, 2014:** Merritt Island, Florida, USA: Liberty XL-2 hit power lines and crashed, killing the 2 occupants. (AircrashConsult)

**June 7, 2014:** Polson, Montana, USA: Northwing Apache Sport struck power lines and crashed, killing the pilot. (AircrashConsult)

**June 5, 2014:** Winterset, Iowa, USA: Kitfox clipped power lines and crashed WSW of the Winterset Municipal Airport. Pilot was seriously injured. (AircrashConsult)

**May 31, 2014:** San Manuel, Arizona, USA: Robinson R22 helicopter struck power lines and crashed. (HeliHub)

**May 27, 2014:** Near Gueydan, Louisiana, USA: Commercial pilot was killed when his airplane hit power lines while he was spraying a rice field. ([The Advertiser](#) Aug 10/14)

**May 23, 2014:** Santa Paula, California, USA: Robinson R22 helicopter crashed after clipping and downing power lines, killing the only person on board. The helicopter went down in a dry riverbed about 3 miles west of the Santa Paula Airport in Ventura County, causing a brush fire that burned about an acre before it was put out. ([The Republic](#) May 23/14)

**May 9, 2014:** Caroline County, Virginia, USA: Hot air balloon, participating in the Mid-Atlantic Balloon Festival, struck a power line, caught fire and crashed into a wooded area, killing the pilot and 2 passengers. 2 explosions occurred, the second one severing the basket from the balloon. 2 of the occupants either

jumped or fell from the balloon's basket, which was still very high in the air. Over 100 rescue workers searched for the burned bodies; the third body was not found until 2 days following the crash. ([Liberty Voice](#) May 11/14, [USA Today](#) May 11/14)

**April 22, 2014:** Near Garfield, Kansas, USA: Single-engine plane crashed after striking a set of power lines, killing the pilot. The pilot was crop-dusting a hay field for weevils. ([Wichita Eagle](#))

**April 5, 2014:** Noblesville, Indiana, USA: Hot air balloon with 7 people hit power lines and crashed, injuring 2. Power was out in the local area for about an hour. ([WTHR 13](#))

**April 4, 2014:** Cumbria, North West England: Hot air balloon carrying 16 passengers clipped power lines, causing a flash and loud bang. The power lines snapped. The pilot was able to land the balloon safely. ([North West Evening Mail](#))

**March 9, 2014:** Manitou Lake area, Saskatchewan, Canada: Glider attempting to make an emergency landing on a secondary road hit a power line and crashed. The pilot was taken to hospital. The Manitou Lake area experienced a power outage because of the clipped power line. ([Battlefords News-Optimist](#))

**Feb 8, 2014:** Panacea, Florida, USA: Robinson R44 helicopter had just taken off when it hit trees and power lines close to Wakulla County Airport. 2 of the 3 occupants were killed. (HeliHub)

**Jan 27, 2014:** Near Silt, Colorado, USA: Helicopter conducting routine inspection of power lines crashed after snagging a power line that spanned a broad deep ravine. All 3 people aboard were killed. ([Huff Post News](#), [The Republic](#))

**Jan 23, 2014:** Viterbo, Italy: Augusta/Bell 206B helicopter hit a power line during a training flight, killing the student and the head of the Italian Army Aviation. (HeliHub)

**Jan 14, 2014:** Solihøgda, Norway: Ambulance helicopter struck power lines on final approach to road traffic accident. The pilot and doctor were killed; a paramedic was seriously injured. (HeliHub)

**Dec 30, 2013:** Brastagi, Indonesia: Helicopter struck power lines and crashed outside a hospital building. One occupant was killed and 4 others were seriously injured. (HeliHub)

**Dec 29, 2013:** Pacoima, Los Angeles, USA: Single-engine Cessna 172 crashed into a used car parking lot near Whitman Airport after clipping 3 power poles and taking out 2 high voltage lines and one distribution line. The pilot and passenger

were taken to a hospital for evaluation. The 4-seat plane was heavily damaged. Hundreds of L.A. Dept of Water & Power customers were without power. ([KPCC](#))

**Dec 17, 2013:** Golloasi, Turkey: Sikorsky UH-60 helicopter hit high voltage lines and crashed, killing all 4 on board. (HeliHub)

**Dec 17, 2013:** Northern Cyprus: Augusta/Bell 47G helicopter conducting agricultural spraying, hit a high voltage line and crashed, causing a fire. (HeliHub)

**Nov 30, 2013:** Limestone County, Alabama, USA: Small plane crashed into the ground after one of the wings hit a power pole, killing the teenage pilot. ([WAAY TV](#))

**Nov 18, 2013:** Abbotsford, British Columbia, Canada: Ultralight plane crashed into thick bush after clipping high voltage power lines, killing the pilot. Conductor cables were damaged and fell to the ground; Highway 1 had to be completely closed while repairs were made. ([Global News](#))

**Nov 14, 2013:** Te Kauwhata, New Zealand: Schweizer 300C helicopter spraying tea trees struck a power line 20-30 feet above ground level. (HeliHub)

**Nov 10, 2013:** Red Lake, Ontario, Canada: Five people were killed after a twin-engine turboprop plane impacted 6 power poles. 2 survivors were hospitalized with injuries. About 1,230 residents of Red Lake were without power. ([CTV News](#))

**Nov 1, 2013:** Folsom Lake, California, USA: Bell OH-58A helicopter struck a power line but was able to land safely because the rotor was fitted with a wire strike protection system. (HeliHub)

**Oct 30, 2013:** Catemu, Chile: Bell 206 L1 LongRanger helicopter on an agricultural flight crashed on the ground after hitting power lines. (HeliHub)

**Oct 28, 2013:** South Umpqua River, Oregon, USA: Bell Jet Ranger helicopter struck power transmission lines and crashed into the South Umpqua River, injuring the pilot and 2 Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife biologists who were conducting fish counts. The clipped transmission lines were brought down to the ground and helicopter fuel leaked into the river. Attempts were made by a regional hazardous spills team to contain the fuel spill by placing absorbent material across the river. About 320 Pacific Power customers were without electricity for several hours. The helicopter was a total write-off. ([Mail Tribune](#))

**Oct 28, 2013:** North of Castle Rock, Colorado, USA: Single-engine plane clipped power lines in thick fog and crashed into a gully, seriously injuring the pilot. ([Greenwich Time](#))

**Oct 18, 2013:** Wyong, Australia: Firefighting helicopter got bucket caught in power lines which were brought down to the ground. (HeliHub)

**Oct 14, 2013:** Antraigues sur Volane, France: Eurocopter EC130 helicopter contacted power lines on take off. (HeliHub)

**Oct 11, 2013:** Valle Fértil, Argentina: Bell 407 helicopter hit power lines, killing one occupant and injuring 4 others. (HeliHub)

**Oct 9, 2013:** Rio Rancho, New Mexico, USA: Hot air balloon, participating in the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, hit a power line and crashed 40 feet to the ground. A sand bag got caught in the lines and would not let the balloon rise. One of the 2 occupants tried to use his hands to pull the sand bag loose, when he and the basket caught fire. One of the occupants received burns to the side of his face, while the other was burned in the face, chest and arms and had to have his left arm amputated, remaining in critical condition for some time. ([KOB News](#))

**Oct 9, 2013:** Pattani, Thailand: Bell helicopter struck lines while inspecting high voltage transmission towers, causing the helicopter to crash into a canal. (HeliHub)

**Oct 6, 2013:** Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA: Hot air balloon, participating in the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, hit power lines but managed to make a safe landing. ([CNN](#))

**Oct 6, 2013:** Cottle County, Texas, USA: McDonnell Douglas helicopter crashed while working on a transmission line. The tail rotor clipped a transmission line pulley while a worker was trying to connect the line to a pole. The pilot was killed. ([Amarillo Globe News](#))

**Oct 5, 2013:** Paducah, Texas, USA: McDonnell Douglas helicopter crashed after the tail rotor clipped a transmission line pulley. The pilot was killed. (HeliHub)

**Oct 5, 2013:** Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA: Hot air balloon, participating in the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, hit a power pole but made a safe landing. ([CNN](#))

**Sept 29, 2013:** Thane, India: Bell 212 helicopter hit high tension transmission lines and crashed, killing all 5 on board. (HeliHub)

**Sept 29, 2013:** Guadalupe, California, USA: Bell 47G helicopter struck power lines during agricultural operations, cutting power to about 500 homes. (HeliHub)

**Sept 7, 2013:** Macomb, Illinois, USA: Hot air balloon, participating in the Macomb Balloon Rally crashed into high voltage lines. There appeared to be no serious injuries. ([Western Courier](#))



**Aug 31, 2013:** Just south of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, USA: Helicopter hit power lines and crashed, killing 3 people. ([KOB.com](#))

**Aug 26, 2013:** Clayton, New Mexico, USA: Robinson R44 helicopter descended into power lines. (HeliHub)

**Aug 24, 2013:** Near Bakersfield, California, USA: Ultra-lite aircraft hit multiple high voltage power lines, causing the plane to crash land in a corn field. The crash knocked over or damaged 5 power poles and resulted in a fire. Neither the pilot nor passenger was injured. About 400 PG&E customers lost power following the crash. ([KABC News](#))

**Aug 17, 2013:** Healy, Alaska, USA: Eurocopter AS350B2 helicopter struck power lines. (HeliHub)

**Aug 16, 2013:** Washington Lake Township, Minnesota, USA: Bell 47 helicopter clipped power line during agricultural operations. There was moderate damage to the helicopter. (HeliHub)

**Aug 6, 2013:** Near Montbovon, Switzerland: Hot air balloon got caught in high voltage power lines and fell 165 feet to the ground, killing 1 passenger and seriously injuring 4 others, including the pilot. ([Los Angeles Times](#))

**Aug 5, 2013:** Near Ackerly, Texas, USA: Hughes 369D helicopter was hoisting 2 linemen onto a high voltage transmission tower when the external cargo long-line carrying the linemen collided with the transmission tower shield wire. The 2 linemen fell to their death about 200 feet to the ground after the long-line snapped. The helicopter pilot was able to land the helicopter safely. ([CBS 7 News](#))

**Aug 3, 2013:** Conway, South Carolina, USA: Beechcraft BE55 aircraft hit a power line during its approach to the Horry County Airport. All 3 people on board were killed. Electricity in the area was knocked out, and a fire started when the plane struck the ground. ([Charlotte Observer](#))

**July 29, 2013:** London, Kentucky, USA: MD500E helicopter crashed and burned out after contacting power lines. 2 of 3 occupants were airlifted to hospital. (HeliHub)

**July 29, 2013:** Breathitt County, Eastern Kentucky, USA: Helicopter crash landed after hitting power lines, injuring the pilot and passenger, a Kentucky State Police trooper. The helicopter was searching for marijuana crops, came over some trees, and hit a power line which the pilot was unable to see for the trees. The helicopter tail hit the lines and flipped straight up in the air before crash landing. The power line was unmarked and not shown on a navigation chart. ([LEX 18](#))

**July 29, 2013:** Beaman, Iowa, USA: Bell 47G4A helicopter struck a power line which took out the tail rotor and forced a landing in a cornfield. (HeliHub)

**July 27, 2013:** Near Thompson Falls, Sanders County, Montana, USA: Three people were conducting a survey of overhead power lines when their helicopter crashed. One of the people on board was killed and the other 2 were injured. ([Missoulian](#))

**July 9, 2013:** Teorama, Columbia: Eurocopter BK117A4 helicopter hit high voltage lines and crashed, killing 5 occupants. (HeliHub)

**July 5, 2013:** Sturgeon County, Alberta, Canada: Hughes 500 helicopter crashed near Fort Saskatchewan, sending the pilot and transmission lineman to hospital with serious injuries. The 2 men were working on the newly-built controversial 500kV double circuit Heartland Transmission Project. The lineman fell out of the helicopter from an unknown height. Heartland towers are taller than any others ever built in Alberta. Local governments and concerned citizens and businesses had pleaded for 4 years to have the Heartland power line buried for health, safety, environmental, property value, economic and aesthetic reasons. ([Edmonton Journal](#))

**June 27, 2013:** Just outside Eustis, Lake County, Florida, USA: Hot air balloon became entangled in power lines as it tried to land. One of the 2 passengers was taken to a hospital, suffering burns on a hand. ([Fox News](#))

**June 25, 2013:** Mill Creek, Oregon, USA: Robinson R44 helicopter clipped a power line while hovering. (HeliHub)

**June 21, 2013:** Hampstead, New Hampshire, USA: Hot air balloon crashed into power lines early in the morning, causing major power outages. Close to 1,500 Public Service of New Hampshire customers were without power. ([Eagle Tribune](#))

**June 15, 2013:** Del Mar, San Diego County, California, USA: While lifting off, a hot air balloon struck power lines early in the evening. ([KFMB 760 AM](#))

**June 12, 2013:** Morgantown, West Virginia, USA: Hughes TH-55 helicopter force landed after striking power lines during crop spraying operations. (HeliHub)

**June 8, 2013:** Arvada, Denver metropolitan area, Colorado, USA: Hot air balloon crashed into power lines and sparked a brush fire. One person was injured. ([Daily Mail](#))

**June 4, 2013:** Livet-et-Gavet, France: Eurocopter AS350B3 helicopter hit a 63kV power line while turning, causing a local power outage. (HeliHub)



**June 1, 2013:** Doylestown Township, near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA: Twin-engine Wilson CRI-CRI plane struck a set of power lines, crashed and exploded, bursting into flames. The pilot was taken to hospital with severe burns. (phillyBurbs.com)

**May 24, 2013:** Hickory County, Missouri, USA: Helicopter crashed in a densely wooded area after hitting a power line, killing the pilot. The helicopter snagged the power line shortly after take off. The power line wrapped around the main rotor. A fire started after impact and consumed the helicopter. ([The Republic](#))

**May 20, 2013:** Allier, France: Eurocopter EC145 helicopter struck a power line during a low-level rescue operation to try and save a kayaker in flood waters. Part of the power line was wrapped around the rotor. (HeliHub)

**May 10, 2013:** Heflin, Kentucky, USA: Bell 206B helicopter hit power lines while spraying. (HeliHub)

**May 7, 2013:** L'Aquila, Italy: MD500E helicopter hit power lines on approach to airport. (HeliHub)

**May 4, 2013:** Liaocheng City, China: Helicopter hit high voltage cables. (HeliHub)

**April 27, 2013:** Near Norfolk, Nebraska Airport, USA: Piper PA-28 Cherokee plane crashed after striking a power line, killing the pilot and passenger. ([World-Herald Bureau](#))

**April 27, 2013:** Shepherd, Montana, USA: Bell 206B helicopter hit power lines and crashed, killing the pilot, the sole occupant. (HeliHub)

**March 16, 2013:** Near Miami, Florida, USA: Hot air balloon with 3 people on board crashed into power lines. Two people were injured, including NFL free agent Donte Stallworth who was seriously burned. ([Windsor Star](#))

**March 6, 2013:** La Libertad region, northern Peru: Chartered airplane became entangled in power lines and crashed to the ground, killing all 9 people on board – the pilot, co-pilot and 7 employees of a gold mining company. The plane and the people on board burned. ([Reuters](#))

**March 3, 2013:** Horný Čepceň, Slovakia: Eurocopter EC120 helicopter hit power lines and fell into a river, killing one passenger and injuring the other 3 occupants. (HeliHub)

**March 2, 2013:** Ciales, Puerto Rico: Robinson R44 helicopter hit power lines and crashed. The helicopter was destroyed. (HeliHub)

**Feb 26, 2013:** Cape Clear, Victoria, Australia: Single-engine Savannah airplane clipped power lines, flipping the plane in the opposite direction and nose-diving into the ground very close to a school. Both people on board walked away with only minor injuries, but the plane suffered a lot of damage. Electricity was cut to about 60 customers in Cape Clear. ([The Courier](#), [9News](#))

**Feb 20, 2013:** Thomson-McDuffie Regional Airport, 30 miles W of Augusta, Georgia, USA: Hawker Beechcraft 390/Premier I crashed while attempting to land, after hitting a 60-foot high voltage (115kV) power pole at the end of the runway. The plane caught fire which spread into the surrounding bush. Five people were killed and 2 were injured. The small jet, returning from Nashville, was carrying a surgeon and members of his clinic staff. About 5,040 Jefferson Energy Cooperative and 3,400 Georgia Power Co. customers experienced a power outage. The 2 surviving pilots are suing Georgia Power Co. which had illegally constructed the power line their plane crashed into. ([Associated Press](#), [Augusta Chronicle](#), [Columbia County News-Times](#) Aug 3/14)

**Feb 18, 2013:** Ely, Nevada, USA: Bell 206 helicopter struck power lines during agricultural operations, killing the pilot. (HeliHub)

**Feb 17, 2013:** Trida, Australia: Enstrom 480B helicopter hit power lines and crashed while crop spraying. (HeliHub)

**Jan 25, 2013:** Grey Goose, South Africa: Robinson R44 helicopter crashed after striking power lines. The pilot and 2 passengers were all taken to hospital with injuries. (HeliHub)

**Jan 19, 2013:** Between Escalante and Boulder, Garfield County, Utah, USA: Single-engine plane crashed after hitting transmission lines, instantly killing the 56-year-old pilot and 59-year-old passenger. The plane was destroyed, transmission lines and a transmission tower were damaged, and power was disrupted in the area. ([KSL Utah](#))

**Jan 10, 2013:** Schwäbisch Hall, Germany: Helicopter crashed on a highway after it got caught in high voltage lines and exploded. The pilot was killed and the driver of a truck hit by pieces of the helicopter was slightly injured. ([Associated Press](#))

**Jan 3, 2013:** Huron, California, USA: Bell 47G5A helicopter hit power lines. (HeliHub)

**Dec 8, 2012:** Aldham, Suffolk, England: Light aircraft with engine problems crashed after hitting 11kV power lines and catching fire before becoming submerged in a pond. The pilot died. 229 homes were without power as a result of the crash. ([BBC News](#))

**Nov 28, 2012:** Clutier, Iowa, USA: Taylorcraft BC12-D hit power lines and crashed, killing the 69-year-old pilot and severely burning his 63-year-old passenger who died about a month later at a hospital. The preliminary National Transportation Safety Board report says at one time the area was used as an airstrip and power lines were buried, but the power lines had recently been erected above ground. In a subsequent report issued in July 2013, the NTSB blamed the overhead power lines for the fatal crash. ([WHO TV](#))

**Nov 27, 2012:** Childress County, Texas, USA: Hughes 369D helicopter crashed while hovering about 150 feet above the ground with a lineman suspended on a seat 50 feet below the helicopter hanging a roller on a power line. The 23-year-old lineman was killed and the 42-year-old pilot was hospitalized for back injuries. ([Amarillo Globe News](#))

**Nov 15, 2012:** East of Riverton, Fremont County, Wyoming, USA: Bell 407 ambulance helicopter crash landed after striking a set of power lines. All 3 people on board survived with minor injuries, but there was significant damage to the helicopter. ([The Ranger](#))

**Nov 15, 2012:** Corning, New York, USA: McDonnell Douglas 369D helicopter crashed along a Chemung River dike after it clipped, and became entangled in, a power line, exploding when it hit the ground. The 2 men on board were killed instantly. The helicopter was inspecting New York State Electric & Gas Corp. transmission lines at the time of the crash. ([pressconnects.com](#))

**Nov 3, 2012:** Atlanta, Georgia, USA: Low-flying Hughes OH-6A police helicopter searching for a missing boy hit a utility pole and became entangled in power lines. Helicopter plummeted to the ground and exploded, killing both police officers (aged 48 & 40) on board. Power knocked out to about 1,300 Georgia Power customers. ([Associated Press](#), [WSB-TV](#))

**Oct 29, 2012:** Bendigo, Victoria, Australia: Single-engine Cessna 172 approached a private airstrip when its front wheel clipped power lines causing the plane to flip. Plane burst into flames as it hit the ground on its roof. Two men on board were rescued but the third man died. All 3 men were believed to be in their 60s. ([Herald Sun](#))

**Oct 25, 2012:** Puslinch Lake, Ontario, Canada: While taking off, a Cessna 172 floatplane crashed into trees and a power line at the edge of Puslinch Lake. A 47-year-old man on board was killed and a second man was taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. About 150 Hydro One customers were without power for a few hours. ([The Record](#))

**Oct 17, 2012:** Roosevelt County near Portales, New Mexico, USA: Single-engine crop duster was spraying a cotton field when a wheel caught the top wire of a power line. Plane crashed, landing upright. Pilot sustained minor injuries. Close

to 6,000 Xcel Energy customers were without power for about 6 minutes. ([Clovis News Journal](#))

**Oct 11, 2012:** Lice district of Diyarbakir, Turkey: A Turkish military Sikorsky helicopter hit power lines and crashed, killing 1 soldier and injuring 7 others. (Press TV)

**Oct 2, 2012:** Beatty, Nevada, USA: Piper PA 28 crashed into power lines 1 mile SE of the Beatty Airport and was destroyed by fire. Pilot was airlifted to a hospital in Las Vegas with serious injuries. ([KRNV Reno](#))

**Sept 30, 2012:** Granite Quarry, North Carolina, USA: Ultra-Light Experimental plane caught power lines and crashed in a wooded area, killing the 49-year-old pilot. ([News 14 Carolina](#))

**Sept 19, 2012:** Cowley, Alberta, Canada: Helicopter flew into a power line about 500m from where it took off and crashed in a field near the Cowley Glider landing strip. Both the 60-year-old pilot and his passenger walked away with no injuries. Downed power lines started a fire in the field. ([Calgary Herald](#))

**Sept 18, 2012:** Glade Park, Colorado, USA: Single-engine plane had just taken off when the wind appeared to give the pilot concern. He tried to turn the plane when it tangled into power lines on his neighbour's property and crashed. The 74-year-old pilot walked away with only minor injuries. About a dozen Grand Valley Power customers were without power for 3-4 hours. ([Mesa County Sheriff's News Release](#))

**Sept 16, 2012:** Land O'Lakes, Florida, USA: Ultra-light plane crashed into power lines, killing the 53-year-old pilot. The crash caused a local power outage. ([CBS Tampa Bay](#))

**Sept 15, 2012:** Weiss Lake, Cherokee County, Alabama, USA: Small plane clipped power lines and crashed into Weiss Lake about 500 yards away in the Cedar Bluff area. Plane was totally submerged. One body was recovered. A Tennessee Valley Authority transmission tower was significantly damaged. Cherokee Electric Cooperative customers in surrounding areas were without power. ([ABC 3340](#))

**Sept 5, 2012:** Near Jarvie, Westlock County, Alberta, Canada: Small crop duster was taking off from a farmer's field when it hit some power lines, taking a pole with it as it crashed. The 44-year-old pilot sustained life-threatening injuries. Much of Westlock and Westlock County was without power for about an hour. ([Westlock News](#))

**Aug 31, 2012:** McKeon Flats near Homer, Alaska, USA: Bellanca 7GCBC single-engine float plane lost control after hitting a power line and crashed nose-first into

a sandbar in the Wosnesenki River. The floats were severed and most of the fuselage and wings collapsed. The 66-year-old pilot was killed. A power outage affected about 20 Homer Electric Association customers on the south side of Kachemak Bay for about a day. ([Homer Tribune](#))

**Aug 31, 2012:** Near Friday Harbor Airport, Washington, USA: Eastern Gilbert SeaRey single-engine amphibian plane clipped power lines with its landing gear as it was trying to land, and crashed upside down in a field. Two power poles were also taken down, and sparks started a small grass fire. The 76-year-old pilot Richard Bach survived, suffering a head injury and broken shoulder. Bach is the author of the 1970s best-selling novella "Jonathan Livingston Seagull".

([Associated Press](#))

**Aug 15, 2012:** Vermilion Parish, near Kaplan, Louisiana, USA: Schweizer crop duster clipped an 80 to 90-foot-high power line while spraying fertilizer on a field north of Kaplan causing the plane to flip over and crash. Plane was substantially damaged. No warning markers on the power line. Pilot sustained serious injuries. About 1,500 Southwest Louisiana Electric Membership Corporation customers were without power. ([Vermilion Today](#))

**Aug 12, 2012:** Eryrys, Denbighshire, Wales: Tiger Moth biplane tried to pull up to avoid power lines while landing but clipped one, crashing into a field. The pilot received only minor injuries. ([Taylor](#))

**Aug 12, 2012:** Raisinville, Munroe County, Michigan, USA: Single-engine Kitfox Series 7 airplane clipped a set of power lines and a utility pole with its landing gear as it approached to land. The plane nose dived and crashed in the middle of a corn field, resulting in a broken sternum to the 84-year-old pilot and causing minor injuries to his 20-year-old grandson. There was substantial damage to the fuselage. The power line was tangled in the wreckage and led to an unknown number of power outages. ([Toledo Blade](#))

**Aug 2, 2012:** Alexander, Genesee County, New York, USA: Small plane was crop dusting pesticide and tried to avoid power lines by flying under them but crashed into them and hit a hill ricocheting off of it. The 48-year-old pilot was uninjured. ([WGRZ](#))

**July 25, 2012:** Verdon, southeast France: Eurocopter Super Puma helicopter hit a high voltage power line while on a test flight and crashed into a riverbank in the Verdon Gorge, a popular recreation area. The 6 people on board were killed and 1 person on the ground was injured. ([Xinhua](#), [UPI.com](#))

**July 20, 2012:** Corona, California, USA: Cessna 182P crashed in an open field about 1½ miles east of the Corona Airport after it hit some power lines. Mike Nolan, the pilot, was seriously hurt while his 18-year-old nephew was also hurt.

Nolan had been a long-time traffic reporter for Los Angeles radio station KFI-AM 640. ([Press-Enterprise](#))

**July 10, 2012:** Cheyenne, Wyoming, USA: Cessna 188 crop duster collided with a set of power lines while spraying mosquitoes and crashed in a field west of Cheyenne. The 38-year-old pilot was in critical condition, suffering burns to the upper half of his body. A small fire in the area caused by the crash was quickly extinguished. Power was out for a few hours to 409 Cheyenne Light, Fuel and Power customers. ([Wyoming Tribune Eagle](#))

**July 3, 2012:** Saskatchewan, Canada: Bell 206 helicopter spraying fungicide crashed after it clipped a power line. ([Sudbury Star](#))

**June 12, 2012:** East Wenatchee, Washington, USA: Robinson R44 helicopter crashed, killing its 31-year-old pilot and seriously injuring another 28-year-old man on board. The main rotor of the helicopter clipped a Chelan County PUD power line about 40 feet above a cherry orchard while the helicopter was hovering. (Helicopters hover low to dry the moisture off the cherries which can split after hard rains in warm weather.) The helicopter crashed upside down in a cherry tree. ([BHA&G](#))

**June 9, 2012:** 100 Mile House, British Columbia, Canada: Cessna 172 hit some power lines just after taking off from a nearby airstrip, smashed into a sign, lost a wing and crashed into a restaurant. All 3 people on board were taken to the hospital with minor injuries. ([CTV BC](#))

**June 6, 2012:** Near Sellersburg, Indiana, USA: Hot air balloon crashed after hitting power lines. Three people, including the pilot, were treated at the scene for burns. The balloon was carrying a couple who had just gotten engaged. ([CBS Cleveland/AP](#))

**June 3, 2012:** Lagos, Nigeria: Dana Air Flight 9J-992 McDonnell Douglas MD83 collided with a power line and then crashed into a crowded residential and commercial area while making a forced landing near the Lagos Airport. The plane landed on its tail, was completely destroyed and started a large fire. All 146 passengers and 7 crew members were killed. At least 10 people on the ground were also killed. There was mass confusion and poor crowd control on the ground which hampered rescue and recovery efforts. This was Nigeria's worst air disaster in nearly 2 decades. ([Aviation Herald](#))

**June 2, 2012:** Baroten, Sinaloa, Mexico: Shortly after taking off, a small plane hit some power lines and then crashed, killing the 61-year-old pilot and injuring 3 others on board. All on board were volunteers with Los Medicos Voladores (The Flying Doctors) which provides free medical exams and surgical procedures to people in Latin America. ([BHA&G](#))



**May 28, 2012:** Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada: Helicopter hit a power line that spanned McIntyre Creek and the pilot was able to land safely in the creek with no injuries. The pilot was spraying to control mosquitoes for the City of Whitehorse. Power was knocked out to about 400 Yukon Electrical customers. ([CBC News](#))

**May 22, 2012:** Winters, Texas, USA: AT-502B Air Tractor crop duster hit a power line in Coleman and dragged the line for some distance. The dragging line then hit another set of live power lines in Winters, causing the plane to crash. A short circuit broke the lines which fell to the ground and burned 7 acres of the nearby wheat field before firefighters put out the fire. Some homes and businesses in Winters experienced a blackout. ([MyRunnelsCounty.com](#))

**May 21, 2012:** Glendale, California, USA: Single-engine Cessna 210 struck 3 power poles and crashed into the ground, landing upside down in front of a home. The pilot suffered minor injuries. About 2,100 customers were without power due to the downed lines, and power wasn't restored until the following day. ([Associated Press](#))

**May 13, 2012:** Villiers-Saint-Denis, Aisne, France: About 15 minutes after takeoff, a Schroeder Fire Balloon G34/24 struck power lines and crashed. The basket caught fire immediately upon touching the power line, killing the balloon pilot and a 60-year-old passenger. Two other passengers - brothers - were flown to a hospital with injuries. ([Hatcher](#))

**March 25, 2012:** County of Northamptonshire, England: Wind blew a Cameron N-77 hot air balloon into a 132-kilovolt transmission line, leaving 3 passengers hanging for 5 hours until the overhead cables could be turned off. Showers of sparks set the basket ablaze, but the 18-year-old pilot doused the flames with a fire extinguisher. The pilot was unhurt, one passenger suffered a burned shoulder and the other 16-year-old passenger's hair was singed. The balloon was destroyed. ([Mail Online](#))

**March 25, 2012:** Godney Moor Airfield, Somerset, England: Alpi Aviation Pioneer 200 struck power lines while trying to land at a small airstrip and crashed in a field near Brook Farm. The pilot was airlifted to a hospital. ([AAIB](#))

**March 23, 2012:** Near Beaver County Airport, Pennsylvania, USA: Single-engine Diamond DA20 was trying to land when it struck a power line that got tangled in the landing gear and crashed into a yard. Plane had a broken tail. The pilot and student passenger received minor injuries. (Wikipedia)

**March 16, 2012:** Marana, Arizona, USA: Hot air balloon with one operator and 8 passengers collided with high voltage power lines and was hanging from the lines until emergency crews arrived. Sparks generated from the impact ignited parts of the balloon causing melting pieces of the balloon to fall down on



passengers in the basket. One of the female passenger's hair was on fire which her husband put out; 2 others had minor burns. ([KVOA Tucson](#))

**March 8, 2012:** Nemingha, near Tamworth, New South Wales, Australia: A pollination helicopter hit power lines and crashed into a property beside the New England Highway in Nemingha. The 52-year-old pilot escaped uninjured. ([Sydney Morning Times](#))

**Feb 21, 2012:** Near Wattisham Airfield Base, Suffolk, England: Apache Army attack helicopter clipped a 132 kilovolt power line and crash landed about 15km from the airfield. The 2-man crew who flew a night-flying exercise, were able to make an emergency landing and escaped injury. Due to the damaged overhead line, power was lost to 373 homes. The Apache helicopter was from Prince Harry's Army Air Corps unit. ([Mail Online](#))

**Jan 7, 2012:** Near Wellington, New Zealand: Cameron A-210 hot air balloon hit power lines and burst into flames which witnesses said were up to 10m high. The pilot and all 10 passengers (5 couples) were killed. Two of the passengers jumped out of the basket 50m to the ground to escape the flames but died. It was the deadliest air disaster in New Zealand since 1963. ([Mail Online](#))

**Dec 14, 2011:** Near Ottawa airport, Ottawa, Canada: Cessna 177A struck power lines and crashed into an open field about a kilometer from the Ottawa airport. The pilot and his passenger were killed. ([Ottawa Citizen](#))

**Oct 16, 2011:** Guthrie, Oklahoma, USA: Piper PA28 crashed into power lines, killing the pilot. (Wikipedia)

**Oct 11, 2011:** Bhav, Uttar Pradesh, India: Single-engine Socata TB20 crashed in the village of Bhav after flying into National Thermal Power Corporation high voltage power lines. The pilot, the only occupant, sustained multiple fractures. ([Hatcher](#))

**Sept 22, 2011:** Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Canada: De Havilland Canada DHC-6-300 Twin Otter float plane crashed in Old Town, Yellowknife, hitting power lines, a car and a building. Both pilots (aged 36 and 26) died and the 7 passengers were hospitalized. ([Hatcher](#))

**Sept 20, 2011:** Higashikagawa, Japan: During a power line inspection, a helicopter was destroyed by fire following an emergency landing at Hikita Sports Park. (helis.com)

**Sept 2, 2011:** Cambridgeshire County, England: Bolkow 208C Junior hit transmission lines and crashed in a field near Sibson Airfield, killing the 52-year-old pilot who was the sole occupant. ([BBC](#))

**Aug 18, 2011:** Jefferson, Oregon, USA: Cessna which had just left the Albany Airport collided with power lines and crashed. The pilot had been trying to land the plane in a field. There was a power outage for about 30 minutes. The pilot and passenger received minor injuries. ([KMTR News](#))

**Aug 17, 2011:** Pine Bluffs, Nebraska, USA: Landing gear of a 602 Air Tractor crop duster clipped power lines while the pilot was spraying fungicide on potato fields. The 47-year-old pilot lost control and the plane crashed in a field. The pilot sustained a cut arm. ([Wyoming Tribune Eagle](#))

**Aug 1, 2011:** West of Joice, Worth County, Iowa, USA: Crop dusting helicopter clipped a power line, sending it crashing into a cornfield. The pilot received only minor injuries. Power was out to Heartland Power Cooperative customers in the area. ([Globe Gazette](#))

**July 31, 2011:** Big Rock, Illinois, USA: Single-engine E-Racer hit power lines as it was trying to land in a corn field near Aurora Municipal Airport. (Wikipedia)

**July 25, 2011:** Between Chelan & Manson, Washington, USA: Helicopter drying cherries over an orchard hit power lines, crashed and burned, killing the 24-year-old pilot. The helicopter had just flown over a block of cherry trees and was turning to fly back when it hit the power lines 40-50 feet above the ground. ([Associated Press](#))

**June 26, 2011:** Romeoville, Illinois, USA: Small plane took down power lines while trying to land at Lewis University Airport. One occupant was killed, the other injured. (Wikipedia)

**June 20, 2011:** Karelia region, northwest Russia: RusAir Flight 9605 Tupolev Tu-134A-3 tried to land but hit a power line that cut the power to the landing lights on the runway at the Petrozavodsk Airport. The plane crashed about 1,200m short of the runway, killing 47 (8 crew, 39 passengers) of the 52 people on board. Three people who had survived the initial crash died later from their injuries. After the crash, flames from the wreckage soared into the night sky. ([BBC](#))

**Feb 9, 2011:** Smithfield, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia: Single-engine plane crashed into power lines and then crashed onto a road in a residential area. The pilot and 1 passenger sustained minor injuries. (Wikipedia)

**Dec 29, 2010:** Just north of Sauk Prairie Memorial Airport, Wisconsin, USA: Pilot of a single-engine Piper averted high voltage power lines and made an emergency landing in a field half a mile north of the runway where he intended to land. The pilot was not injured and local passers by helped dig the undamaged plane out of the snow. ([Hatcher](#))

**Oct 10, 2010:** Gorno-Badakhshan, Tajikistan: Mil Mi-8 Tajik National Guard helicopter got caught in power lines and crashed in the Rasht Valley while trying to land. No survivors – all 28 crew were killed. This was the deadliest Tajik aviation accident since 1997. (Wikipedia)

**Sept 25, 2010:** Geelong Surf Coast Highway, Victoria, Australia: Small plane was trying to land at Grovedale Airport at Mt. Duneed when it clipped power lines, crashed to the ground and burst into flames. The pilot and 15-year-old passenger sustained injuries. (Wikipedia)

**July 5, 2010:** Marion, Crittenden County, Western Kentucky, USA: A crop dusting helicopter got tangled in power lines and crashed, killing the pilot. Power was knocked out to more than 4,500 Kenergy Power Company customers. ([Heartland News](#))

**July 4, 2010:** Near Round Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada: Bell 206 helicopter spraying fungicide on crops crashed after the tail rotor struck a power line. The pilot received minor injuries, but the helicopter suffered extensive damage. ([CBC News](#))

**June 22, 2010:** Louisa, Virginia, USA: Small plane hit some power lines and landed in a field on its roof. No fatalities. (Holly Deyo)

**April 10, 2010:** Ayr, Queensland, Australia: Small plane crop dusting sugar cane fields collided with power lines and crashed into the ground, bursting into flames. The well-known 66-year-old pilot died at the scene. The fire which had spread to the cane paddock was quickly extinguished. ([Townsville Bulletin](#))

**Feb 17, 2010:** Palo Alto, California, USA: Twin-engine Cessna 310R crashed into a transmission tower and high voltage power lines, and plummeted in pieces into a residential neighbourhood. The 56-year-old pilot and 2 passengers (aged 42 & 31) were killed in the fiery crash. Shortly after takeoff the plane hit the Pacific Gas & Electric tower and lines about half a mile NW of the airport runway. ([Palo Alto Online](#), [Treehugger](#))

**Jan 5, 2010:** Auberry, California, USA: During an aerial deer survey, a Bell 206B helicopter collided with high voltage transmission lines that spanned the valley where the aircraft was travelling. The helicopter crashed on the valley floor of Willow Creek and was destroyed by post crash fire. The certified commercial pilot and 3 passengers were killed. ([Willis Law Firm](#))

**Nov 7, 2009:** Adelanto, San Bernardino County, California, USA: A vintage Piasecki PV-18 helicopter crashed into power lines and caught fire, killing all 3 people on board. All 3 men were reportedly burned so badly they had to be identified through dental records. The helicopter crashed about a mile south of Adelanto Airport from which it had just taken off. ([KTLA](#))

**Sept 10, 2009:** Le Brusquet, Alpes-de-Haute-Provence, France: Helicopter hit power lines during firefighting operations. ([helis.com](#))

**Aug 22, 2009:** Cortina D'Ampezzo, Veneto, Italy: Helicopter hit electrical wires and crashed, killing 4 people. ([helis.com](#))

**July 23, 2009:** Washington County, Maryland, USA: Helicopter crashed onto a highway after striking a power line and burst into flames. All 4 people on board were killed, including 3 employees of a flight instruction company. ([Heartland Connection](#))

**May 29, 2009:** Between Boulder and Escalante, Garfield County, Utah, USA: Single-engine plane crashed onto Highway 12 and off a bridge after clipping power lines. The 64-year-old pilot and 67-year-old passenger died on impact. ([KSL Utah](#))

**March 10, 2009:** Lee, Massachusetts, USA: Hughes 369D (500) helicopter crashed while performing maintenance duties on Western Massachusetts Electric Company power lines. A power line was tangled in the wreck. The pilot and 2 line mechanics sustained injuries but they were not life-threatening. (Zimbio)

**Jan 4, 2009:** Staffordshire, England: Single-engine airplane crashed into power lines and burst into flames near the Colwich junction in West Midlands, killing the 59-year-old pilot and his passenger. ([Ground Report](#))

**Jan 3, 2009:** Birmingham, England: Small plane crashed into power lines along a railroad, and the 2 occupants were feared dead. (Wikipedia)

**Aug 18, 2008:** Durach, Germany: Light aircraft flew into a 380kV high voltage power line as it was trying to land in an airfield and got stuck in the lines about 30m above the ground. A couple stayed motionless for about 3 hours until the power was shut off and they were rescued out of the plane by a crane. The couple escaped with only minor injuries. ([Mail Online](#))

**June 29, 2008:** NW of North Las Vegas, Nevada, USA: Piper Cherokee struck power lines and crashed at the 7,000-foot level on Mount Charleston, bursting into flames. The plane was destroyed and the 4 people on board were killed. About 10 acres burned in the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area before the fire was contained on June 30. ([Fox 5 Vegas](#))

**Feb 28, 2008:** Northern New South Wales, Australia: Helicopter crashed into power lines. Pilot suffered chest injuries. (GT Newsman)

**Oct 17, 2007:** Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA: Beech A36 crashed after colliding with power lines shortly after takeoff from Richard L. Jones Airport, killing 5 people. (Wikipedia)

**Sept 21, 2007:** Clayton, North Carolina, USA: Single-engine North American Navion banked to avoid a water tower and antenna tower, and then banked to try to avoid 40-foot-high power lines before crashing into a restaurant. The plane came to rest upside down inside the restaurant. The 54-year-old pilot died. No one else was injured. ([WRAL](#))

**Sept 11, 2007:** Skyline, Alabama, USA: UH-60 Black Hawk army helicopter on a training flight crashed in a pasture after it struck a high voltage power line while flying through foggy weather. All 3 crew members were killed. The crash knocked out power to about 50 families for a few hours. ([ABC News](#))

**July 12, 2007:** Ballynacally, County Clare, Ireland: Helicopter crashed during power line inspection. The pilot was injured. (helis.com)

**July 3, 2007:** McClellan-Palomar Airport, Carlsbad, California, USA: Beechcraft 90 King Air hit power lines and crashed after taking off in dense fog. The 2 people on board were confirmed dead. Local customers experienced power outages. (Wikipedia)

**April 13, 2007:** Mecca, California, USA: Hot air balloon crashed on the ground after hitting power lines. The basket pounded against the ground, ejecting 2 passengers, one of whom was killed. ([Los Angeles Times](#))

**March 23, 2007:** Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, USA: Helicopter struck power lines and crashed, injuring 2. (Wikipedia)

**July 10, 2006:** Multan International Airport, Pakistan: A few minutes after takeoff, Pakistan International Airlines Flight 688 Fokker F27 hit power lines, crashed into a field and burst into flames. All 41 passengers and 4 crew were killed. (Wikipedia)

**July 1, 2006:** Fort Simpson, Northwest Territories, Canada: Bell 206L1 helicopter hit a power line that dead-ended on a power pole. A severe vertical vibration resulted in the helicopter and the pilot immediately set down in an adjacent baseball diamond. There were no injuries but several helicopter parts needed replacing. (Kathryn's Report)

**June 30, 2006:** Cedar Rapids, Iowa, USA: While filming some parade sequences for the movie "The Final Season", a Bell 206 helicopter hit power lines and crashed into a field. Roland Schlotzhauer, the cameraman in the helicopter, was killed and the pilot was seriously injured. Schlotzhauer was well known for his ability to capture good shots from helicopters. (Wikipedia)

**May 14, 2006:** Glen Valley Airstrip, Fort Langley, British Columbia, Canada: Ultra-light Rans S-9 Chaos was on final approach to the airstrip when its main landing gear caught a power line. The plane somersaulted and landed in a ditch. The pilot sustained only a minor injury but the plane sustained substantial damage. The power line broke and started several ground fires. (Kathryn's Report)

**Jan 11, 2005:** Orlando, Florida, USA: Cessna 172 experiencing engine failure tried to make an emergency landing on a golf course but crashed into power lines and a concrete electrical pole just before touching down. The plane was suspended from the power lines with one of its wings touching the ground. The pilot (instructor) was killed on impact and his student had minor injuries. (Wikipedia)

**March 30, 2004:** Gran Canaria, Canary Islands, Spain: A rescue helicopter was called to a bus crash scene to pick up 2 injured passengers. After takeoff with the injured, the helicopter rotor blades hit some power lines and crashed, killing the pilot, a doctor, a medic and the 2 bus passengers. (Civil Aviation)

**Nov 9, 2002:** Antalya, Turkey: A Russian Antonov 26 lost altitude, clipped a power line and crashed as it was trying to land at an airport in the Turkish Mediterranean resort of Antalya. The plane with 19 passengers and a crew of 9 crashed in an empty field about 1,650 feet from the airport. Eight of the people on board escaped with minor injuries, while 20 others were rushed to hospital. ([Aviation Forum](#))

**Dec 12, 2001:** Vernon, Wisconsin, USA: Robinson R44 helicopter covering a fire for WISN-TV was flying back to the airport in low visibility when it struck power lines and crashed on a highway. One fatality and 2 injured. (Wikipedia)

**Aug 26, 2001:** Verrens-Arvey, SW France: Six people, including a child, were killed when their hot air balloon touched a power line. ([Associated Press](#))

**June 17, 1999:** Ibbenburen, Germany: Four passengers were killed when their hot air balloon hit a power line. ([Associated Press](#))

**June 9, 1999:** Morgan Hill, California, USA: Hot air balloon drifted into power lines, causing a short and fire that burned and killed 2 passengers and seriously injured the pilot. ([Los Angeles Times](#))

**Nov 6, 1998:** Vernita, Washington, USA: Cessna 182, hired by the Fish & Wildlife Service, struck an electricity tower support wire and sank in the Columbia River near Vernita. Two wildlife staff were killed as they were trapped inside the rapidly sinking plane. The pilot, though critically injured, was able to swim to safety. (FlyingWay)



**Oct 25, 1998:** Linden Airport, New Jersey, USA: Cessna 172 crashed in a vacant field after clipping power lines as it approached the airport. One person was killed, another critically injured, and 2 had minor injuries. (FlyingWay)

**Oct 5, 1998:** Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico, USA: Hot air balloon participating in the Albuquerque Kodak International Balloon Fiesta crashed into a power line in an isolated desert area. Of the 13 people aboard the balloon, 1 person was killed and 2 others were critically injured. (FlyingWay)

**Sept 19, 1998:** Kajabi, Queensland, Australia: Two people were killed when their Bell helicopter hit power lines and crashed a mile west of Kajabi. (FlyingWay)

**Aug 16, 1998:** Santa Monica Airport, California, USA: After running out of gas just as it was approaching the airport, a Cessna 177 clipped power lines, crash landed on a junior high school athletic field, and flipped over against a baseball backstop. Of the 4 people aboard, 1 was in critical condition, another in fair condition, and two others suffered only minor injuries. (FlyingWay)

**Aug 2, 1998:** Oshkosh, Wisconsin, USA: CASA Saetta two-seat training jet clipped a utility pole, snapped it apart, then crashed in a residential area. The pilot was conducting the experimental plane's annual fly-in. The pilot sustained major injuries, but his passenger was killed in the burning wreckage. Residents in the area were left without power for hours. (FlyingWay)

**May 25, 1998:** Monroe, North Carolina, USA: Bell 206 helicopter hit power lines and crashed in dense fog on a 4-lane highway 30 miles north of Monroe. The helicopter was carrying fans from a NASCAR stock car race. Five people were killed. (FlyingWay)

**April 9, 1998:** King County Airport near Seattle, Washington, USA: Cessna 150 became entangled in power lines while trying to land at the airport. The pilot was stranded for hours in an upside down cockpit until he was rescued. (FlyingWay)

**Feb 27, 1998:** Metcalf Field, Walbridge, Ohio, USA: Single-engine Piper Arrow hit some power lines as the pilot was attempting an emergency landing. A 13-year-old passenger died a week after the crash. (FlyingWay)

**Feb 14, 1998:** St. Lucie, Florida, USA: Single-engine Piper struck power lines and crashed in a grapefruit grove west of St. Lucie, killing the pilot. (FlyingWay)

**Feb 3, 1998:** Savannah, Tennessee, USA: Tennessee Valley Authority helicopter was stringing power lines when its rotor blades struck a worker on a utility pole and crashed in a residential neighbourhood. The worker and 2 people in the helicopter were killed, and 2 other people in the helicopter were seriously injured. Power was knocked out to downtown Savannah. ([Associated Press](#))



**Jan 9, 1998:** Salinas Airport, California, USA: Cessna crashed into a power pole and greenhouse as the pilot was trying to land at the airport, and burst into flames. The pilot, Richard Graff, co-founder of the American Food and Wine Institute, was killed. (FlyingWay)

**Dec 24, 1997:** Tallahassee Regional Airport, Florida, USA: Piper Archer 2 crashed into power lines during violent thunderstorms as the plane was trying to land at the airport, killing a married couple. (FlyingWay)

**Dec 23, 1997:** Monticello, Utah, USA: A marijuana-stuffed single-engine plane crashed through 2 high voltage power lines and crashed into a field. The 2 smugglers were apparently lost and circling the area before crashing. One man was killed and the other injured. About 2,000 customers were left without power after the lines were cut. (FlyingWay)

**Dec 14, 1997:** Denver, Colorado, USA: Columbia Airlift medical helicopter which had just picked up an injured motorist from a traffic accident hit high voltage power lines as it lifted off to fly to a hospital in Denver. All 4 people in the helicopter were killed. The accident knocked out power to more than 15,000 customers for 2 hours. (Flyingway)

**Dec 2, 1997:** Union City, California, USA: Cessna lost power, caught on some power lines as the pilot fought to glide the plane down, cartwheeled down a road, and landed on the front lawn of a house. The pilot escaped with only minor back injuries. (FlyingWay)

**Oct 14, 1997:** Langley, British Columbia, Canada: Small plane hit power lines and resulted in a house catching fire. (Wikipedia)

**Dec 25, 1996:** Near Austin, Texas, USA: Cessna 150M crashed through the roof of a duplex after colliding with electrical lines during an emergency landing attempt in a field. The pilot and his wife were slightly injured. None of the 4 people in the duplex were hurt. (FlyingWay)

**Oct 12, 1996:** San Diego, California, USA: Single-engine Piper Archer snapped 3 high voltage lines and then nose-dived into the concrete centre divide wall on Interstate 805. The 2 people aboard were critically injured. Some San Diego residents experienced power outages as a result of the snapped high voltage lines. (FlyingWay)

**Aug 23, 1996:** Seattle-Tacoma Airport, Washington, USA: Twin-engine Beechcraft Baron clipped a power pole, cartwheeled 3 times, and slammed into a grassy area at the edge of the airport. The lone passenger was killed and the pilot was critically injured. (FlyingWay)

**June 16, 1996:** Portland, Oregon, USA: Hot air balloon struck a power line and caught fire. Two people were critically burned and 2 others escaped with minor injuries. (FlyingWay)

**May 15, 1996:** Northern Norway: Bell 206B Jet Ranger helicopter hit a power line and sank into the sea. A Norwegian and Swede (both killed) had been helping with Norway's annual reindeer roundup. (FlyingWay)

**Feb 19, 1996:** DeWeese, Nebraska, USA: Helicopter working on a high voltage power line was hovering over a transmission tower when it suddenly dipped, hit the tower and crashed. The pilot and the worker he had just dropped off at the top of the tower both died. (FlyingWay)

**Jan 9, 1996:** SE of Spokane, Washington, USA: An Aeromed Cessna 401 air ambulance crashed after hitting a wooden power pole about 1 mile from the airport. Two crew members and a patient were killed while 1 crew member survived. (FlyingWay)

**Dec 20, 1995:** Kennedy Airport, New York, USA: Tower Air 747 jumbo jet veered off the runway at the airport as it tried to take off and crashed into a concrete electrical tower. Twenty-eight people were injured. (FlyingWay)

**Dec 5, 1995:** Thibodaux, Louisiana, USA: A utility lineman died when the helicopter which was holding up the platform he was working on hit one of the lines and crashed down on top of him. (FlyingWay)

**May 7, 1995:** Mar Vista, Los Angeles, USA: Long-EZ homebuilt aircraft snagged power lines, causing it to crash into a home. The pilot sustained serious head injuries.

**April 30, 1994:** Arroyo, Texas, USA: Cessna 150M stalled as it had to climb too steeply to avoid a power line and crashed, killing the pilot and 1 passenger. (Wikipedia)

**Jan 6, 1994:** Clearwater, Oregon, USA: Helicopter collided with power lines. No fatalities. (helis.com)

**Aug 8, 1993.** Near Aspen, Colorado, USA: Six people were killed when their hot air balloon hit a power line, tearing off the basket and sending it plunging 100 feet to the ground. ([Associated Press](#))

**April 26, 1993:** Aurangabad, India: Indian Airlines 737-200 struck a large vehicle on the road just after liftoff, hit power lines and crashed. Four of the 6 crew and 52 of the 112 passengers were killed. (AirSafe.com)

**Jan 11, 1993:** Tonawanda, New York, USA: A traffic reporting Osage TH-55 helicopter struck power lines and fell into the Niagara River, killing the pilot and WGR traffic reporter. (Wikipedia)

**Oct 25, 1991:** Vallejo, California, USA: Bell 206 helicopter flew directly into a 223-foot-high transmission line shortly after takeoff. The pilot and 2 passengers were killed – Bill Graham, the well-known rock concert promoter, and his girlfriend, Melissa Gold. (Wikipedia)

**July 7, 1989:** Venice, Los Angeles, California, USA: Cessna 150M hit power lines when descending for a forced landing, and crashed on Rose Avenue in Venice.

**Oct 19, 1988:** Ahmedabad, India: Indian Airlines 737-200 hit an electric mast 5 miles out on approach in poor visibility, causing the plane to crash. All 6 crew and 124 of 129 passengers were killed. (AirSafe.com)

**Oct 19, 1988:** Deckers, Colorado, USA: Bell 206L-3 helicopter covering KUSA-TV news crashed after hitting power lines. Two fatalities. (Wikipedia)

**May 29, 1988:** San Antonio, Texas, USA: Sprint Ultra-light flew into power lines adjacent to the Kitty Hawk Field of Dreams Ultra-Lite Flying Field and fell 115 feet to the ground. The pilot, Salem bin Laden, Osama bin Laden's half-brother, died of head injuries. (Wikipedia)

**Jan 18, 1988:** SW of Chongqing Airport, China: China Southwest Airlines Flight 4146 Ilyushin I1-18D lost control after losing a burning engine and crashed into a power line and 2 farmhouses before bursting into flames. All 98 passengers and 10 crew were killed. (Wikipedia)

**July 30, 1987:** Mexico City, Mexico: A 4-engine, propeller-driven Boeing 377 crashed onto a crowded highway after clipping power lines, killing 39 people and injuring 17. The commercial cargo plane, bound for Miami, was carrying 12 people (8 passengers & 4 crew) and 18 horses. Apparently, 12 people with 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns were evacuated to hospital by helicopter. It was unclear how many died on the plane or on the ground. At least 26 cars on the highway were either smashed or burned and 4 houses caught fire. A blackout was experienced in surrounding communities. ([New York Times](#))

**March 15, 1987:** Coalinga near Fresno, California, USA: Cessna 182 crashed into transmission lines, exploding on impact and sending one 500kV and two 230kV power lines crashing down across Interstate 5, and damaging 7 transmission towers. The 37-year-old pilot and 44-year-old passenger were both killed. Interstate 5 was closed for over 15 hours and the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant was forced into a partial closure. Pacific Gas & Electric Co. took numerous days to repair the damages. ([Los Angeles Times](#))

**July 12, 1986:** Waltham, Maine, USA: Bell 47G-5 helicopter conducting aerial spraying struck power lines and crashed. There were 2 minor injuries. (FindTheData)

**Sept 19, 1984:** Jecheon, South Korea: A KBS TV station helicopter struck a power line and crashed into the Namhan River, killing 5 people. (Wikipedia)

**March 1, 1983:** Los Angeles, California, USA: Los Angeles Police Department helicopter crashed as it struck a power line during takeoff. The officers survived the initial impact, but while one of the officers was trying to rescue his 2 partners, the helicopter's rotor struck him in the head. (Wikipedia)

**Aug 6, 1981:** Suburb of Chicago, Illinois, USA: Five people were killed and one seriously injured when a hot air balloon caught fire after touching electrical wires and crashing. ([Associated Press](#))

**March 10, 1981:** Cape Charles, Virginia, USA: Cessna 172 flew through a low-hung set of power lines, crashed, and flipped over. The pilot was attempting an emergency landing after his plane had lost power. The pilot, Morris E. Goodman, survived the crash but was left paralyzed unable to move from head to foot. His remarkable recovery earned him the nickname of "Miracle Man". He became a motivational speaker and author. (Wikipedia)

**Aug 15, 1979:** Sitasjaure near Ritsem, Sweden: Helicopter struck a power line and crashed, killing 5 people. (helis.com)

**April 10, 1973:** Near Hochwald, Switzerland: Invicta International Airways Flight 435 Vickers Vanguard 952 crashed into snowy, forested hillside, killing 108. The pilots were disoriented by what appeared to be beacons and it is thought they were lured there by "ghost" beacon transmissions caused by electric power lines. (Wikipedia)

**April 27, 1969:** Arque, Cochabamba, Bolivia: Helicopter rotors got caught on power lines running through Arque Canyon. Rene Barrientos, the President of Bolivia, was killed. (Wikipedia)

**March 16, 1969:** La Trinidad section of Maracaibo, Venezuela: Viasa Flight 742 DC-9-30 hit a series of power lines just after takeoff and crashed. All 84 people on board perished, as did another 71 people on the ground (total of 155). San Francisco Giant pitching prospect, Nestor Chavez, was one of the passengers killed. It is the second deadliest aircraft accident in Venezuela and is the deadliest accident involving this class of aircraft. At the time, it was the world's deadliest civil air disaster. (Wikipedia)

**March 30, 1967:** New Orleans, Louisiana, USA: Delta Airlines Flight 9877 Douglas DC-8-51 was on a training flight with 6 crew and no passengers at New

Orleans International Airport when it banked too tightly, hit some power lines and crashed into a residential area, destroying several homes and a motel complex. All 6 crew members were killed as were 13 people on the ground. The plane was written off. ([Aviation Safety Network](#))

**Sept 1, 1966:** Tuxedo, Maryland, USA: Hughes 296B helicopter, traffic reporting for WWDC, struck a high voltage line shortly after takeoff and burst into flames, killing the pilot and 1 passenger. (Wikipedia)

**Oct 1, 1949.** Los Angeles, California, USA: Twin engine Cessna T-50 ran out of gas and clipped trees and power lines as it crash landed onto Beverly Boulevard. Singer Buddy Clark was killed and 4 others were injured. ([www.planecrashinfo.com](http://www.planecrashinfo.com))

**Oct 20, 1948:** Prestwick Airport, Scotland: KLM Royal Dutch Airlines Lockheed 049-46-25 Constellation crashed into high voltage power lines and burst into flames. The plane had been attempting a go-around due to strong winds and while circling to line up with the runway ran into a heavy fog bank just before crashing. All 30 passengers and 10 crew were killed. (Wikipedia)

**June 17, 1948:** Near Aristes, Pennsylvania, USA: United Airlines Flight 624 four-engine propeller-driven Douglas DC-6 was put into emergency descent following release of a CO2 bottle to extinguish a fire suspected in the cargo hold (later found to be a false alarm). As the plane descended, it hit a 66kV high voltage power line and transformer, severed the power lines, burst into flames, then smashed through trees on a wooded hillside. All 39 passengers and 4 crew members were killed. (Wikipedia)

**Aug 27, 1940:** Kronoberg, Sweden: Military plane crashed into power lines and Swedish Olympian swimmer Sten-Olof Bollden was thrown out of the passenger seat and killed. (Wikipedia)

**March 19, 1932:** Calimesa, California, USA: American Airlines Fokker F-10A crashed into an orchard after striking power lines in heavy fog, killing all 7 on board. (Wikipedia)