

## **Summary In English**

The incident occurred during landing on snowmobile trails in a wooded area in connection with the pick-up of a patient. The helicopter was of the model AS 365 N3. On board at landing were four persons (two pilots, a doctor and a nurse), all of which belonged to the crew.

During the landing the left main gear went through the snow crust and the left stabilizer fin made contact with the snow cover and pressed the left stabilizer half upwards.

When the helicopter had dropped down the left main wheel the helicopter's inclination was such that it was outside of the control system's limitations and it was not possible to safely lift the helicopter up.

The medical staff was asked by the commander to dig holes for the right main landing gear so that the helicopter's inclination could be corrected.

When the patient had been picked up the helicopter took off towards Gällivare. A short while after takeoff the pilots experienced two nose-down movements which were corrected by the autopilot. Shortly thereafter the helicopter landed at the base in Gällivare. After landing, the crew discovered that the left stabilizer and left vertical fin was missing.

The Swedish Accident Investigation Authority has found that the incident was caused by the difficulty of accurately assessing the bearing capacity of the snow cover, in combination with the difficulties of loading a spine injured patient in a helicopter "light on wheels".

## **Recommendations**

None.