

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199003085**

Robinson R22-Beta

16 July 1990

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NOTE: All air safety occurrences reported to the ATSB are categorised and recorded. For a detailed explanation on Category definitions please refer to the ATSB website at www.atsb.gov.au.

Occurrence Number: 199003085 **Occurrence Type:** Accident

Location: Coolangatta Aerodrome QLD

Date: 16 July 1990 **Time:** 1706

Highest Injury Level: Serious

Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	1	0	0
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	0
Total	0	1	1	0

Aircraft Details: Robinson R22-Beta

Registration: VH-JNT

Serial Number: 1108

Operation Type: Aerial Work

Damage Level: Substantial

Departure Point: Coolangatta QLD

Departure Time: 1640

Destination: Coolangatta QLD

Approved for Release: 12th February 1991

Circumstances:

The student helicopter pilot was at an early stage of his training, however, he was a very experienced fixed-wing pilot. Before conducting some circuits he was given practice in hovering. After this the instructor took over to demonstrate the manoeuvrability of the helicopter with the rotor disc steady. During this hovering the height increased to about 30 feet before the aircraft began to spin rapidly in an anti-clockwise direction and dive towards the ground. The low rotor rpm warnings sounded during the descent. Impact evidence showed that the helicopter had struck the ground at a high rate of descent while travelling forward slowly. No signs of engine malfunction were found.

Significant Factors:

The following factors were considered relevant to the development of the accident

1. The instructor did not maintain directional control of the aircraft.
2. The instructor did not maintain adequate rotor rpm.
3. The instructor was operating outside the safe flight envelope.