

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198903767**

Robinson R22-B

14 April 1989

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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: 198903767 **Occurrence Type:** Accident

Location: Rocklands Station (167 km NW Mt Isa) QLD

Date: 14 April 1989 **Time:** 1000

Highest Injury Level: Nil

Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Robinson R22-B

Registration: VH-HZA

Serial Number: 879

Operation Type: Aerial Mustering

Damage Level: Substantial

Departure Point: Rocklands Station QLD

Departure Time: N/K

Destination: Rocklands Station QLD

Approved for Release: 26 April 1989

Circumstances:

During mustering operations, the helicopter was landed near a fence which had to be opened to allow cattle through. The stockman who was to open the fence required a pair of pliers from the helicopter. As the pilot threw the pliers, one handle caught in his coat sleeve, deflecting them upwards towards the main rotor. Despite the application of left cyclic control, the pilot was unable to prevent the pliers being struck by, and causing substantial damage to, both main rotor blades. This accident was not the subject of an on-site investigation. The relevant information was provided by the pilot of the aircraft.

Significant Factors:

The following factor was considered relevant to the development of the accident

1. The pilot did not ensure that an object could be safely thrown from the aircraft while the engine was operating.