Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198703464

Hiller UH 12-E

27 February 1987
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Investigations commenced on or before 30 June 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the CEO of the Bureau in accordance with Part 2A of the Air Navigation Act 1920.

Investigations commenced after 1 July 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the CEO of the Bureau in accordance with the Transport Safety Investigation Act 2003 (TSI Act). Reports released under the TSI Act are not admissible as evidence in any civil or criminal proceedings.

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: 198703464  
Occurrence Type: Accident  

Location: 3 km SE St Pauls Stn, 90 km SE of Charters Towers QLD  
Date: 27 February 1987  
Highest Injury Level: Nil  

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Aircraft Details: Hiller UH 12-E  
Registration: VH-HJW  
Serial Number:  
Operation Type: Aerial Work-Positioning  
Flight  
Damage Level: Substantial  
Departure Point: Airville, 8 km South of Ayr QLD  
Departure Time: N/K  
Destination: St Pauls Station QLD  

Approved for Release: October 30th 1987  

Circumstances:

During the descent the pilot heard a loud bang, following which the engine stopped. An autorotational descent was carried out for a landing onto the clearest available area, a dry river bed. The helicopter touched down with some forward speed on the soft sand, pitched forward and rolled over. An inspection of the wreckage revealed that a connecting rod big-end had failed due to fatigue. These fatigue cracks had initiated in the area of the recesses for the big end bolt nuts, where production machining was found to be quite coarse. This accident was not the subject of an on-site investigation.