

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198800726**

Robinson R22

14 August 1988

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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.

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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.

This accident was not subject to an on scene investigation.

Occurrence Number: 198800726 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 16 km NNE Beswick NT
Date: 14 August 1988 **Time:** 945
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
Registration: VH-ONE
Serial Number: 628
Operation Type: Aerial Work
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: 16 km N Beswick NT
Departure Time: 0745
Destination: 16 km N Beswick NT

Approved for Release: 26 October 1988

Circumstances:

The pilot was mustering over sandstone which was laced with shallow gorges and gullies. After sensing a shudder and engine miss, the pilot elected to carry out an immediate precautionary landing and landed on an outcrop of rock. While still at high RPM, the pilot moved the pedals and cyclic control to ensure that the skids were on a firm footing and tightened the collective friction. However, shortly after he exited the aircraft to inspect the idling engine, the helicopter pitched rearwards and slid off the rock into the gorge.

Significant Factors:

It was considered that the following factors were relevant to the development of the accident

1. Suspected engine malfunction
2. Limited choice of areas for landing
3. Centre of gravity shifted when the pilot left aircraft
4. Instability of aircraft aggravated by vibration from engine and rotors