

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
198503539**

**Hughes 269 C**

**27 October 1985**

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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](http://www.atsb.gov.au).**

**Occurrence Number:** 198503539 **Occurrence Type:** Accident

**Location:** Jarra Creek, 13 km WNW Tully QLD

**Date:** 27 October 1985 **Time:** 1350

**Highest Injury Level:** Nil

**Injuries:**

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

**Aircraft Details:** Hughes 269 C

**Registration:** VH-FHJ

**Serial Number:**

**Operation Type:** Private (Pleasure)

**Damage Level:** Substantial

**Departure Point:** Walkamin QLD

**Departure Time:** 1350

**Destination:** Jarra Creek QLD

**Approved for Release:** 24th January, 1986

**Circumstances:**

The pilot advised that during the approach he did not notice a piece of blue plastic tarpaulin in long grass adjacent to the landing area. As he lowered the collective control after touchdown, there was a loud bang and the aircraft began to shake violently. Main rotor RPM had virtually ceased before the pilot was able to shut down the engine. As the aircraft became stationary the pilot noticed a piece of the tarpaulin was attached to one of the main rotor blades. The pilot had not previously landed at this property, and was unaware that the tarpaulin had been left on a loading ramp. It had evidently been lifted into the air by rotor slipstream and had then fallen into the rotor disc. This caused one blade to become partially detached, with resulting imbalance of the rotor system and a short period of ground resonance.