

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198702416**

Bell 206B

27 July 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.

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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: 198702416
Location: Bankstown NSW
Date: 27 July 1987
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident

Time: N/A

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	2	2
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	1
Total	0	0	0	3

Aircraft Details: Bell 206B
Registration: VH-PHX
Serial Number: 2814
Operation Type: Aerial Work (Instructional Check)
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Bankstown NSW
Departure Time: N/A
Destination: Bankstown NSW

Approved for Release: November 6th 1987

Circumstances:

One of the pilots was undergoing practice in engine failure emergencies at night. The helicopter was equipped with a "Nightsun" light, which was used to illuminate the ground below the aircraft. Fixed lights were also installed at the edges of the helipad. During the third practice autorotative descent, the Nightsun light was inadvertently extinguished when the aircraft was about 300 feet above the ground. It was turned on again by the time the aircraft had descended to about 100 feet, and the remainder of the descent and flare appeared to be normal. However, after touchdown the aircraft became airborne again, before touching down on the heels of the skids while moving slowly forward. The aircraft rocked forward and the main rotor severed the tail boom just forward of the tail rotor assembly. The surface of the helipad had been softened by recent rain, allowing the heels of the skids to dig in slightly. This probably accentuated the rocking movement which led to main rotor blade contact with the tail boom. The type of manoeuvre being performed requires a high level of skill. Should a slight error of judgement occur, there is little opportunity for any corrective action to be successful.