

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199801249**

**Robinson Helicopter Co
R44**

04 April 1998

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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: 199801249 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 8km SW Walkerville
State: VIC **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Saturday 04 April 1998
Time: 1345 hours **Time Zone** EST
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Robinson Helicopter Co
Aircraft Model: R44
Aircraft Registration: VH-OCT **Serial Number:**
Type of Operation: Non-commercial Pleasure/Travel
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Lilydale Vic.
Departure Time:
Destination: Hobart Tas.

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on	
		Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Private	30.0	830

Approved for Release: Wednesday, June 24, 1998

The pilot reported that the engine stopped in the cruise at about 600 ft. He entered autorotation and landed in low trees and scrub.

The engine stopped because the crank shaft drive gear bolt failed due to hydrogen embrittlement. When the bolt failed drive to the accessories was lost.

The manufacturer has verbally assured CASA that this was an isolated instance of a bolt failure.

