

From: [ATSB International Reporting](#)
To: permanence@bea.aero; permanence@bae-fr.org
Cc: [ATSB International Reporting](#)
Subject: ACCID 201901754 - VH-SZS - Eurocopter AS 350 B3 - Carrapateena Mine SA - 20 March 2019
 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Thursday, 21 March 2019 12:44:26 PM
Attachments: [ACCID 201901754.pdf](#)
Importance: High

Good Afternoon,

Attached is a notification of an accident involving a Eurocopter AS 350 B3 with a Turbomeca Arriel 2D engine.

Please forward to relevant personnel/organisations.

The ATSB is investigating this Accident.

Kindest Regards,

Section 47F(1)

Safety Reporting Officer
 Australian Transport Safety Bureau

62 Northbourne Avenue
 Canberra ACT 2601

P Section 47F(1) | E Section 47F(1) @atsb.gov.au





Australian Government

Australian Transport Safety Bureau

ICAO Annex 13 Chapter 4 Accident & Serious Incident Notification

ATSB Reference: 201901754 **Category:** Accident
Investigation: Yes - AO-2019-015
Date and Time: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 10:48 AM CSuT
Location: Woomera Aerodrome, 99.66° M 66Km (Carrapateena Mine)
State: SA **Country:** Australia
Latitude: -31.3120 **Longitude:** 137.4850
Highest Injury: Fatal
Occurrence: Operational - Terrain Collisions - Collision with terrain
Site Access: Accessible
Dangerous Goods: Nil

Injury Details:	Crew	Passenger	Ground
Fatal	1	0	0
Serious	0	0	0
Minor	0	0	0
Nil	0	0	-

Nationalities: N/A

Aircraft Details:

VH-SZS

Aircraft Type: Helicopter
Serial Number: 7421
Manufacturer: Eurocopter
Model: AS 350 B3
Engine Manufacturer: TURBOMECA ENGINES
Engine Model: ARRIEL 2D
Operation: Aerial Work Other
Damage Level: Substantial
Country of Registration: Australia
Country of Manufacture: France
Departed: 31 17 27.3S 137 26 46.7E SA
Destination: 31 17 27.3S 137 26 46.7E SA

Summary: During stringing operations, the helicopter contacted the tower and subsequently collided with terrain, resulting in substantial damage. 1 POB deceased. The investigation is continuing.



Australian Government

Australian Transport Safety Bureau

Aviation Notification Form

Notification Officer: [Section 47F(1)]

Phone: 1800 011 034

All orange fields are Mandatory unless information is not available from Reporter

Reporters Name: Section 47F(1) **Role:** Section 47F(1) **Employer:** Ventia

Report date: 21/03/2019 Report time: 0755 Phone: Section 47F(1)

Registration:		Flight No:		Aircraft Type:	AS350
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Occurrence type: collision with terrain Operation Type:

Occurrence Date:	20/03/2019	Occurrence Time:	1020	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Local <input type="radio"/> UTC
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Occurrence location: State:

Latitude/Longitude:

Aircraft Operator: Section 47E(d)

Injuries	Fatal	Serious	Minor	Nil
Crew	1			
Passengers				
Ground				

Damage description:

Description of occurrence and Additional Information: (Press ALT + ENTER for a new paragraph)

Section 47F(1) at Ventia notified that the helicopter that crashed yesterday was working for their company under a subcontract arrangement through a separate company. Advised that the Heli was performing arial stringing of powerlines when the accient occured and reported that weather in the area was quite good at the time of the accident.

Flt Recs Quarantined: ☐ Yes ☐ No **ELT Disabled** ☐ Yes ☐ No **Guard:** ☐ Yes ☐ No

Passed on:	Date	Time	Name	Date	Time	Name
------------	------	------	------	------	------	------

COR:				WebSMS:			
------	--	--	--	---------	--	--	--

Other:				Other:			
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From: Investigation
To: permanence@bea.aero; [ATSB International Reporting](#)
Cc: [Section 47F\(1\)](#); [Airbus Helicopters](#) [Section 47F\(1\)](#); [Section 47F\(1\)](#)
Subject: ACCID 201901754 - VH-SZS - Eurocopter AS 350 B3 - Carrapateena Mine SA - 20 March 2019
 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Tuesday, 26 March 2019 8:14:32 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image011.png](#)

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for providing us the appointment of an Ac.Rep. of the subject occurrence. I acknowledge receipt on behalf of EASA.

Best Regards

[Section 47F\(1\)](#)

[Section 47F\(1\)](#)

Safety Investigation Officer (SNE)
European Aviation Safety Agency

Tel.: [Section 47F\(1\)](#)

Postal: Postfach 10 12 53, 50452 Cologne, Germany

An agency of the European Union 



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From: permanence@bea.aero [mailto:permanence@bea.aero]
Sent: 22 March 2019 07:53
To: ATSB International Reporting <ATSBInternationalReporting@atsb.gov.au>
Cc: Permanence <permanence@bea.aero>; Investigation <investigation@easa.europa.eu>;
[Section 47F\(1\)](#) [Section 47F\(1\)](#) [@bea.aero](#); Airbus Helicopters ([Section 47F\(1\)](#))
[Section 47F\(1\)](#) [@airbus.com](#); [Section 47F\(1\)](#) [@safrangroup.com](#)
Subject: Re: ACCID 201901754 - VH-SZS - Eurocopter AS 350 B3 - Carrapateena Mine SA - 20 March 2019 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear colleague,

Please find attached the letter appointing [Section 47F\(1\)](#) (cc'ed) as BEA's accredited representative for the aforementioned event.

Feel free to contact him directly for any assistance request pertaining to this investigation.

Best regards,

[Section 47F\(1\)](#)

Safety Investigator on duty - Enquêteur de permanence

permanence@bea.aero

T : [Section 47F\(1\)](#)

BEA

Bureau d'Enquêtes et d'Analyses pour la Sécurité de l'Aviation civile

Zone Sud - Bâtiment 153

10 rue de Paris

Aéroport du Bourget

F – 93352 Le Bourget Cedex

T **Section 47F(1)**www.bea.aero

De: "ATSB International Reporting" <ATSBInternationalReporting@atsb.gov.au>**À:** "Permanence" <permanence@bea.aero>, permanence@bae-fr.org**Cc:** "ATSB International Reporting" <ATSBInternationalReporting@atsb.gov.au>**Envoyé:** Jeudi 21 Mars 2019 02:44:20**Objet:** ACCID 201901754 - VH-SZS - Eurocopter AS 350 B3 - Carrapateena Mine SA - 20 March 2019 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Good Afternoon,

Attached is a notification of an accident involving a Eurocopter AS 350 B3 with a Turbomeca Arriel 2D engine.

Please forward to relevant personnel/organisations.

The ATSB is investigating this Accident.

Kindest Regards,

Section 47F(1)

Safety Reporting Officer

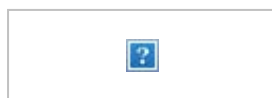
Australian Transport Safety Bureau

62 Northbourne Avenue

Canberra ACT 2601

P **Section 47F(1)** | E **Section 47F(1)** @atsb.gov.au

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**BEA**

Bureau d'Enquêtes et d'Analyses

pour la sécurité de l'aviation civile

10 rue de Paris - Aéroport du Bourget

93352 Le Bourget Cedex, France
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[Membre du réseau ENCASIA](#)



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Afin de contribuer au respect de l'environnement, merci de n'imprimer cet e-mail qu'en cas de nécessité.

From: [ATSB International Reporting](#)
To: adrep@icao.int
Cc: [ATSB International Reporting](#)
Subject: ACCID 201901754 - VH-SZS - Eurocopter AS 350 B3 - Carrapateena Mine SA - 20 March 2019
[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Friday, 29 March 2019 4:24:13 PM
Attachments: [ACCID 201901754.pdf](#)
Importance: High

Good Afternoon,

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Australia's national transport safety investigator

AVIATION | MARINE | RAIL
Web www.atsb.gov.au
Twitter @ATSBInfo

From: [ATSB International Reporting](#)
To: adrep@icao.int; [France - BEA](#)
Cc: [ATSB International Reporting](#)
Subject: FW: ACCID 201901754 - VH-SZS - Eurocopter AS 350 B3 - Carrapateena Mine SA - 20 March 2019 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Monday, 15 March 2021 9:06:26 AM
Attachments: [ao-2019-015_final.pdf](#)
[FINAL 201901754.pdf](#)
Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

Good day,

Please see attached the final investigation report for ATSB occurrence 201901754.

Kind regards,

Section 47F(1)

Technical Officer



Australian Transport Safety Bureau

Level 1, 62 Northbourne Avenue
Canberra ACT 2601

Section 47F(1)

Section 47F(1)

Section 47F(1)

@atsb.gov.au

www.atsb.gov.au

[@atsbgovau](#)

Australia's national transport safety investigator

From: ATSB International Reporting <ATSBInternationalReporting@atsb.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 29 March 2019 4:24 PM

To: adrep@icao.int

Cc: ATSB International Reporting <ATSBInternationalReporting@atsb.gov.au>

Subject: ACCID 201901754 - VH-SZS - Eurocopter AS 350 B3 - Carrapateena Mine SA - 20 March 2019 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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Australian Transport Safety Bureau

62 Northbourne Avenue
Canberra ACT 2601

P Section 47F(1) | E Section 47F(1) [@atsb.gov.au](mailto:atsb@atsb.gov.au)





ICAO ADREP Occurrence Report - 201901754

State Reporting	Reporting Organisation	State File Number	Date Created	Report Status
Australia	Australia (ATSB)	201901754	15 March 2021	Data

Headline	Occurrence Class	Occurrence Category
ACCIDENT 201901754 Collision with terrain involving AS350 VH-SZS, 60 km east of Woomera Aerodrome 20 March 2019	Accident	CFIT: Controlled flight into or toward terrain

Local Date Time	UTC Date Time	State/Area Of Occurrence	Location	Latitude	Longitude
20 March 2019 10:17 AM CSuT	20 March 2019 12:17 AM UTC	Australia	Woomera Aerodrome, 101.6° M 60Km	-31.3137	137.4150

Narrative

On 20 March 2019, the pilot of an Airbus Helicopters AS350B3e, registered VH-SZS (SZS) was performing aerial work on Pernatty Station, South Australia, approximately 60 km east of Woomera Airfield. The task involved helicopter powerline stringing from the Mount Gunson South substation to the Carrapateena mine site, a total distance of 51 km. The stage being conducted on the morning of 20 March was from pole 159 to pole 179, a distance of 4.8 km. Stringing operations continued normally for poles 161, 162 and 163. However, while approaching pole 164, at about 1017, witnesses reported seeing the helicopter collide with the pole and impact terrain near the base of the pole. The pilot, who was the sole occupant, received fatal injuries.

Injury Totals

	Crew	Passenger	Other
Fatal	1	0	0
Serious	0	0	0
Minor	0	0	0
Nil	0	0	-

Occurrence Types

Operational - Terrain Collisions - Controlled flight into terrain

Findings

Finding Type	Safety Factor	Description
Contributing safety factor	Individual action - Aircraft operation action - Other aircraft operation action	The pilot was using a stringing technique that was different to that instructed by the chief pilot. The modified method resulted in the aircraft operating at a lower height above the ground, which led to the pilot colliding with pole 164.
Contributing safety factor	Individual action - Aircraft operation action - Other aircraft operation action	Due to a combination of the attitude of the aircraft, dust and the position of the sun, it is likely that the pilot lost situational awareness of pole 164, leading to the collision with it.
Other safety factor	Organisational influence - Safety management processes	There were no requirements in Section 47E(d) procedures to provide any post-training supervision for powerline operations. What supervision was provided was ineffective in identifying that a modified stringing method was being used by the pilot.

Safety Recommendations

No Safety Recommendations have been issued in relation to this accident



ICAO ADREP Occurrence Report - 201901754

Eurocopter - AS 350 B3, VH-SZS

Aircraft Identification

Manufacturer / Model	Country Of Registration	Registration Number	Year Of Manufacture	Serial Number
Eurocopter - AS 350 B3	Australia	VH-SZS	2012	7421

Aircraft Operation

Operator	Operation Type	Operation Sub Type
Section 47E(d)	Aerial Work	Other

Aircraft Description

Aircraft Type	Engine Type	Number Of Engines	Weight Category	Maximum Take Off Weight	Landing Gear Type
Helicopter	Turboshaft	1	0-2250 Kg (0-4960 Lbs)	2250kg	Skid

Engine Description

Engine Manufacturer	Engine Model
TURBOMECA ENGINES	ARRIEL 2D

Itinerary

Departed From	Destination	Phase Of Flight
near Carrapateena Mine SA	near Carrapateena Mine SA	Maneuvering/airwork

Person at Controls

Pilot Flying
Pilot in command

Pilot in command

Pilot Licence Category	Pilot Licence Type	Total Hours On All	Total Hours On Type	Total Hours On All Last 90 Days	Total Hours On Type Last 90 Days
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Section 47F(1)

VH-SZS Injuries

	Crew	Passengers
Fatal	1	0
Serious	0	0
Minor	0	0
Nil	0	0

OA2019-01754 - Occurrence Details

Occurrence

Logged date	6/13/2021 12:06:46 AM			
Status	Approved for release			
Occurrence class	Accident			
Highest injury	Fatal			
Occurrence date	3/19/2019			
Occurrence time	10:17 Cen. Australia Standard Time			
Public summary	On 20 March 2019, the pilot of an Airbus Helicopters AS350B3e, registered VH-SZS (SZS) was performing aerial work on Pernatty Station, South Australia, approximately 60 km east of Woomera Airfield. The task involved helicopter powerline stringing from the Mount Gunson South substation to the Carrapateena mine site, a total distance of 51 km. The stage being conducted on the morning of 20 March was from pole 159 to pole 179, a distance of 4.8 km. Stringing operations continued normally for poles 161, 162 and 163. However, while approaching pole 164, at about 1017, witnesses reported seeing the helicopter collide with the pole and impact terrain near the base of the pole. The pilot, who was the sole occupant, received fatal injuries.			
Property damage	Yes			
Property damage details	Powerline pole			
Worst accident outcome	Major accident			
Defence effectiveness	Not effective			
Risk rating	High (500)			
ERC justification				
TSI reportable	Immediately reportable			
Ground injuries	Fatal	Serious	Minor	Total
	0	0	0	0

Location

Location	Woomera Aerodrome, 101.6° M 60Km
Latitude	-31.31370000
Longitude	137.41500000
State	SA
Country	Australia

Aircraft

Registration	VH-SZS
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Type	Helicopter
Manufacturer	Eurocopter
Model	AS 350 B3
Engine type	Turboshaft
Engine manufacturer	TURBOMECA ENGINES
Engine model	ARRIEL 2D
Number of engines	1
Landing gear type	Skid
Fuel type	Kerosene
Year of manufacture	2012
Amateur built	
Maximum takeoff weight (kg)	2250
ELT Type	
ELT Fitted	Yes
ELT Activated	Yes

Airspace

Controlling agency	
ATS service type	
ATS position	
Airspace class	G
Airspace type	OCTA

Operation

Registration	VH-SZS
	Section 47E(d)
Flight number	
Related runway	
Phase of flight	Manoeuvring/airwork
PIC status	Employee
Pilot flying role	Pilot in command
Departure aerodrome	near Carrapateena Mine SA
Destination aerodrome	near Carrapateena Mine SA
Actual landing	
Aerodrome proximity	Off aerodrome < 10 km
Operation type	Aerial Work
Operation subtype	Other - (Aerial Work)

Activity group	General aviation / Recreational
Activity type	Aerial work
Activity subtype	Other aerial work
Flight rules	VFR
Flight conditions	VMC
Altitude type	AGL (above ground level - ft)
Altitude	Exactly
Exact altitude	56
Other information	

Occurrence category

Registration	VH-SZS
Level 1	Operational
Level 2	Terrain collisions
Level 3	Controlled flight into terrain

Damage level and injuries

Registration	VH-SZS			
Injury level	Fatal	Serious	Minor	Total
Crew	1			1
Passengers				
Aircraft damage level	Destroyed			
Post impact fire	Yes			
Damage description				

Weather and environment

Cloud cover	
Visibility (km)	
Light conditions	Daylight
Wind direction	120
Average wind speed (kts)	2
Cloud base (ft)	
Visibility reduced by	
Turbulence conditions	
Icing conditions	
Precipitation type	Nil

Precipitation intensity	Nil
QNH	1015
Outside temperature	27.5
Light and variable (windspeed)	No
Maximum wind speed (gust)	
Dew point	
CAVOK	Yes
Effective cloud ceiling	
Weather phenomena	

Safety factor

Level 1	
Level 2	
Level 3	