

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199702643**

**Robinson Helicopter Co
R22**

17 August 1997

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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.

The Bureau did not conduct an on scene investigation of this occurrence. The information presented below was obtained from information supplied to the Bureau.

Occurrence Number: 199702643 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Alice Springs, Aerodrome
State: NT **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Sunday 17 August 1997
Time: 1130 hours **Time Zone** CST
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Robinson Helicopter Co
Aircraft Model: R22 BETA
Aircraft Registration: VH-LLK **Serial Number:** 1675
Type of Operation: Charter Passenger
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Alice Springs NT
Departure Time: 1130 CST
Destination: Alice Springs NT

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial		2180

Approved for Release: Thursday, August 21, 1997

Summary

The pilot started the engine and set about 75 percent RPM. He then experienced an urgent call of nature and left the helicopter unattended with the engine running. While the pilot was absent, the passenger boarded the helicopter (although the pilot had apparently told him not to do so). As the pilot was returning to the helicopter he saw it become airborne at the same time as the passenger exited the helicopter. The helicopter rolled on to its side and was substantially damaged. The passenger could not recall whether he had moved any of the cockpit controls.