

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
198600720**

**Bell 206-L**

**24 October 1987**

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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:** 198600720 **Occurrence Type:** Accident

**Location:** West Lakes Football Stadium, Adelaide SA

**Date:** 24 October 1987 **Time:** 1945

**Highest Injury Level:** Fatal

**Injuries:**

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

**Aircraft Details:** Bell 206-L

**Registration:** VH-LTH

**Serial Number:**

**Operation Type:** Charter-Parachute Jumping

**Damage Level:** Nil

**Departure Point:** Adelaide SA

**Departure Time:** 1945

**Destination:** Adelaide SA

**Approved for Release:** April 28th 1987

**Circumstances:**

The planned exhibition jump into the football stadium was delayed due to a gusting 30 knot(54 kilometres per hour) wind. After about 30 minutes a report was received that the wind strength had abated. A decision was then taken to proceed with the jump. When the aircraft arrived overhead the stadium the jump ground controller advised the pilot, by radio, that the wind strength was eight knots(15 kilometres per hour) and the four parachutists exited the aircraft. The first three parachutists landed safely within the playing field. It was reported that the parachute of the fourth parachutist collapsed at an altitude of about 180 feet during a sharp right turn. The parachute spun to the right descending rapidly until the parachutist struck the fascia of the north-east stand. Several witnesses reported that the wind strength was in excess of 8 knots, and as a result it is likely that conditions above the stadium would have been turbulent. Medical reports indicate that at the time of the accident it is likely that the parachutist's judgement was impaired by the effects of alcohol. Tests carried out on the parachute found that it would collapse during radical manoeuvring in turbulence, however, control could be quickly regained when the correct technique was applied. It is considered that on this occasion the parachutists handling of the jump was consistent with his judgement being impaired by the effects of alcohol.