

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198700106**

Hughes 269C

9 September 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: 198700106 **Occurrence Type:** Accident

Location: 20 km S Anna Plains Station WA

Date: 9 September 1987

Time: 1000

Highest Injury Level: Minor

Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Hughes 269C

Registration:

Serial Number: 700947

Operation Type: Aerial Work (Mustering)

Damage Level: Substantial

Departure Point: Anna Plains Station WA

Departure Time: 1000

Destination: Anna Plains Station WA

Approved for Release: December 16th 1987

Circumstances:

Whilst mustering cattle near a holding yard, the helicopter was being held in the hover in a 15-20 knot headwind. Because some of the cattle broke away, the pilot turned downwind to herd them back. As the aircraft rolled out of the turn it began to descend and the pilot attempted to arrest the sink by increasing collective. However, the helicopter continued downward and impacted heavily on the ground resulting in the tail boom being sheared off. It then bounced into the air and began to yaw rapidly but the pilot quickly and firmly placed it back onto the ground. When the helicopter came to rest the occupants were able to extricate themselves from the wreckage. The pilot misjudged the performance that could be expected from the helicopter. When the machine was turned downwind, the sudden loss of lift resulted in a descent from which the pilot was unable to recover before the aircraft collided with the ground. The pilot reported that he believes he overpitched the main rotor during the recovery attempt.