

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198703478**

Hughes 269-C

13 May 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.

Occurrence Number: 198703478 **Occurrence Type:** Accident

Location: Surfers Gardens (20 km NW Coolangatta) QLD

Date: 13 May 1987 **Time:** 1148

Highest Injury Level: Nil

Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	1
Total	0	0	0	2

Aircraft Details: Hughes 269-C

Registration: VH-CHM

Serial Number:

Operation Type: Private-Business

Damage Level: Substantial

Departure Point: Casino NSW

Departure Time: 1148

Destination: Surfers Gardens QLD

Approved for Release: July 17th 1987

Circumstances:

The helicopter was on late final approach when the pilot attempted to open the throttle. The engine did not respond to the throttle movement and an autorotational descent was commenced. However, the rate of descent was not arrested and the aircraft landed heavily. An inspection of the aircraft found that the bolt attaching the throttle cable to the collective/throttle linkage was missing. The bolt and nut were later found on the floor of the aircraft between the seats. The helicopter had recently been stripped and repainted but during re-assembly a cotterpin was inadvertently left out of the throttle control linkage. A subsequent periodic inspection failed to disclose the omission. The aircraft had completed approximately 24 flight hours since that periodic inspection.