

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199803878**

**Bell Helicopter Co
Sioux**

19 September 1998

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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: 199803878 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 2km W Kajabbi
State: QLD **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Saturday 19 September 1998
Time: 1430 hours **Time Zone** EST
Highest Injury Level: Fatal
Injuries:

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

Aircraft Manufacturer: Bell Helicopter Co
Aircraft Model: 47G-5
Aircraft Registration: VH-JGO **Serial Number:** 25031
Type of Operation: Non-commercial Aerial Mustering
Damage to Aircraft: Destroyed
Departure Point: 10 NM SW Kajabbi
Departure Time: 1300 EST
Destination: 10 NM SW Kajabbi

Crew Details:

<u>Role</u>	<u>Class of Licence</u>	<u>Hours on Type</u>	<u>Hours Total</u>
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial		650

Approved for Release: Wednesday, July 21, 1999

Witnesses reported that pilot of the Bell 47 was conducting cattle mustering operations. He departed on a short flight to check for stray cattle on the side of a hill, opposite to where the main mob was located. A short time after the helicopter disappeared from view, the sound of an impact was heard. A search revealed that the helicopter had struck a single wire earth return (SWER) power line which was suspended between a post on top of the hill and another post well left of the probable flight path. One of the landing gear skids had caught the wire, upsetting the helicopter, and causing it to enter uncontrolled flight. It was not determined whether the pilot was aware that there was a wire in the area.

This accident was not the subject of an on-site investigation.
