

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198803430**

Aerospatiale AS350-B Squirrel

3 February 1988

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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: 198803430
Location: Archerfield QLD
Date: 3 February 1988
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident

Time: 815

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

Aircraft Details: Aerospatiale AS350-B
Squirrel
Registration: VH-HRD
Serial Number: 1813
Operation Type: Aerial Work (Dual
Instruction)
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Archerfield QLD
Departure Time: 0800
Destination: Archerfield QLD

Approved for Release: 26 February 1988

Circumstances:

The pilot under training had recently completed a Private Pilot Licence course on Robinson R22 helicopters. This was the first flight of his conversion to the AS350-B type. After about ten minutes hovering practice the pilot carried out a successful landing. He was instructed to come to the hover again and perform another landing. The instructor stated that on touchdown the pilot made a sudden movement of the cyclic control, causing the tail rotor to strike the ground and breaking both blades. The helicopter swung to the left through 180 degrees and one landing skid was broken. The helicopter type has light and sensitive controls. The pilot had probably applied excessive cyclic inputs as the helicopter touched down. The instructor was unable to take control in time to prevent the tail rotor strike.