

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198501415**

Benson B-8M Gyrocopter

6 January 1985

Readers are advised that the Australian Transport Safety Bureau investigates for the sole purpose of enhancing transport safety. Consequently, Bureau reports are confined to matters of safety significance and may be misleading if used for any other purposes.

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.

Investigations commenced after 1 July 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the CEO of the Bureau in accordance with the Transport Safety Investigation Act 2003 (TSI Act). Reports released under the TSI Act are not admissible as evidence in any civil or criminal proceedings.

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: 198501415
Location: Penfield, VIC.
Date: 6 January 1985
Highest Injury Level: Fatal
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident

Time: 1232 (Apprx)

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

Aircraft Details: Benson B-8M Gyrocopter
Registration: N/A
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Circuit practice
Damage Level: Destroyed
Departure Point: Penfield, VIC.
Departure Time: 1232 (Apprx)
Destination: Penfield, VIC.

Approved for Release: 20th May, 1985

Circumstances:

The pilot had been advised that the aircraft propeller was defective and he indicated to witnesses that he intended only to conduct taxiing. However, the aircraft was seen to become airborne and start to fly a circuit. On base leg the engine noise grew louder and the aircraft fell to the ground with the rotor stationary. Wreckage examination revealed that part of the propeller had separated in flight and the remaining propeller section had impacted the rotor following failure of the engine mounts due to excessive vibration.