

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
198100042**

**Aerospatiale SA319B**

**17 June 1981**

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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](http://www.atsb.gov.au).**

**Occurrence Number:** 198100042  
**Location:** Gladstone QLD  
**Date:** 17 June 1981  
**Highest Injury Level:** Minor  
**Injuries:**

**Occurrence Type:** Accident

**Time:** 943

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	2	-
Passenger	0	0	1	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>

**Aircraft Details:** Aerospatiale SA319B  
**Registration:** VH-FLH  
**Serial Number:**  
**Operation Type:** Carriage of Passengers  
**Damage Level:** Substantial  
**Departure Point:** Gladstone QLD  
**Departure Time:** 0943  
**Destination:** Heron Island QLD

**Approved for Release:** 22nd March, 1984

**Circumstances:**

While wheel taxiing for take-off minor ground resonance occurred. The pilot lifted the helicopter off the ground and the resonance ceased. Severe main rotor vibration started and the pilot landed the helicopter. Ground resonance then began with one main rotor blade striking the cabin roof and severing the tailboom. The helicopter then turned through 180 degrees as it sustained further damage. Inflight main rotor imbalance was caused by the failure of a blade damper. The failure resulted from the seat displacement of a one-way valve by a portion of perforated plate. Blade imbalance then induced the failure of a main rotor spacer cable. Loss of control necessitated a landing and severe ground resonance induced by blade imbalance resulted.