

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
199000113**

**Challenge Rotocraft**

**07 July 1990**

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

This accident was not formally investigated by the Bureau.

**Occurrence Number:** 199000113      **Occurrence Type:** Accident  
**Location:** West Wubin WA  
**Date:** 07 July 1990      **Time:** 1330  
**Highest Injury Level:** Serious  
**Injuries:**

|              | Fatal    | Serious  | Minor    | None     |
|--------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Crew         | 0        | 1        | 0        | 0        |
| Ground       | 0        | 0        | 0        | -        |
| Passenger    | 0        | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> |

**Aircraft Details:** Challenge Rotocraft  
**Registration:** N/A  
**Serial Number:** N/A  
**Operation Type:** Sports Aviation  
**Damage Level:** Substantial  
**Departure Point:** West Wubin WA  
**Departure Time:** N/A  
**Destination:** West Wubin WA

**Approved for Release:** 31st July 1990

**Circumstances:**

An approaching front was causing the wind to swing from a 45 degree headwind/crosswind to a 45 degree tailwind/crosswind from the left. Although the pilot reported that he considered that the conditions were not suitable, he decided to attempt a takeoff as he felt there was a pressing need to carry out a survey of his property. Just prior to lift off, the aircraft veered to the left and the nosewheel entered a soft area at the side of the strip. The nosewheel broke off and the aircraft cartwheeled across the paddock. The pilot had completed a rotorcraft pilot's course, consisting of 10 hours of instruction, and the first 10 hours of post course consolidation. However, the pilot had very little experience at operating a rotorcraft in fluctuating crosswind conditions. The loss of control was probably the result of a sudden wind change during the latter part of the takeoff roll and pilot inexperience.