

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198803512**

Robinson R22 Beta

25 March 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: 198803512 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Villadale (36km North of Richmond) QLD
Date: 25 March 1988 **Time:** 1130
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Robinson R22 Beta
Registration: VH-HAP
Serial Number: Unknown
Operation Type: Aerial Work
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Villadale QLD
Departure Time: 0930
Destination: Villadale QLD

Approved for Release: 9th August 1989

Circumstances:

The pilot reported that while mustering cattle he was attempting to turn an animal that had broken away from the mob. During this procedure the pilot attempted to climb the helicopter over a line of trees, however, the main rotor blades struck the top of one of the trees. The helicopter was landed and an inspection found that the main rotor blades required replacement.

Significant Factors:

The following factors were considered relevant to the development of the accident

1. The pilot became distracted, from the task of flying the aircraft, while chasing the animal.
2. The pilot misjudged the clearance of the helicopter from the tree.