

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199003083**

Robinson R22-Beta

5 July 1990

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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: 199003083
Location: Charters Towers QLD
Date: 5 July 1990
Highest Injury Level: Serious
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident
Time: 1733

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

Aircraft Details: Robinson R22-Beta
Registration: VH-IOT
Serial Number: 740
Operation Type: Aerial Work
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Strathpark (120 km N
Richmond) QLD
Departure Time: 1430 Approx.
Destination: Charters Towers QLD

Approved for Release: 10th September 1990

Circumstances:

When nearing its destination after a flight of about three hours, the helicopter struck a set of power lines, eight metres above ground level, spanning a ridge line. Witnesses described flight path as "quite low and fast" compared to other helicopters they had observed approaching the Airport. Examination of the wreckage revealed wire strike damage to the upper surface of one blade, suggesting that the helicopter was in powered forward flight when it contacted the wires. A test run of the engine found it to be capable of normal operation.

Significant Factors:

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

1. The pilot crossed the ridgeline at low level.
2. The pilot did not see or avoid the power line. This accident was not the subject of an on-scene investigation.