

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198903814**

Robinson R22-Beta

10 October 1989

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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: 198903814 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Gamboola Station (185 km NM Mareeba) QLD
Date: 10 October 1989 **Time:** 1430
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	1
Total	0	0	0	2

Aircraft Details: Robinson R22-Beta
Registration: VH-EFK
Serial Number: 507
Operation Type: Aerial Work
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Gamboola Station QLD
Departure Time: N/K
Destination: Gamboola Station QLD

Approved for Release: 24th October 1989

Circumstances:

The pilot reported that he was turning the helicopter at low level when he was confronted by trees which were higher than he thought. He had to manoeuvre the helicopter harshly to avoid the trees and in the process overpitched the main rotor blades, causing a loss of rotor RPM and thus helicopter performance. As the pilot attempted to land the helicopter in a cleared area, the tail rotor struck a fence. The helicopter yawed left, contacted the ground heavily, and came to rest lying on its side. This accident was not the subject of a formal on-scene investigation.

Significant Factors:

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

1. The pilot misjudged the helicopter's position with respect to trees.
2. The pilot overpitched the main rotor blades in manoeuvring to avoid the trees, causing a loss in helicopter performance.