Aviation Safety Investigation Report 198901557

Rockwell International Commander S2R

17 October 1989

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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.

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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 <u>www.atsb.gov.au</u>.

Occurrence Number: Location: Date: Highest Injury Level: Injuries:		3km W Elmore VIC 17 October 1989			Occurrence Type: Accident Time: 1100	
injuitest			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:	Rockwell International Commander S2R					
Registration:	VH-DQA					
Serial Number:	1833R					
Operation Type:	Aerial Work					
Damage Level:	Substantial					
Departure Point:	Elmore	VIC				
Departure Time:	1030					
Destination:	Elmore	VIC				

Approved for Release: 29th August 1990

Circumstances:

The pilot was conducting spraying operations in a large wheat paddock. The aircraft was being flown about two metres above the crop and the pilot intended to pass to the right of a large tree near the end of the particular swath run. The aircraft suddenly swung violently to the left as the wheels entered the crop. By the time the pilot managed to pull the aircraft clear, it was heading for the tree. While attempting to manoeuvre the aircraft, the pilot was unable to prevent it from striking the ground.

Significant Factors:

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

- 1. Contact with the crop on spray run, reasons undetermined.
- 2. Aircraft struck the ground during pilot attempt to avoid a tree.