

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198703464**

Hiller UH 12-E

27 February 1987

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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: 198703464 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 3 km SE St Pauls Stn, 90 km SE of Charters Towers QLD
Date: 27 February 1987 **Time:** N/K
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: Hiller UH 12-E
Registration: VH-HJW
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Aerial Work-Positioning
Flight
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Airville, 8 km South of Ayr
QLD
Departure Time: N/K
Destination: St Pauls Station QLD

Approved for Release: October 30th 1987

Circumstances:

During the descent the pilot heard a loud bang, following which the engine stopped. An autorotational descent was carried out for a landing onto the clearest available area, a dry river bed. The helicopter touched down with some forward speed on the soft sand, pitched forward and rolled over. An inspection of the wreckage revealed that a connecting rod big-end had failed due to fatigue. These fatigue cracks had initiated in the area of the recesses for the big end bolt nuts, where production machining was found to be quite coarse. This accident was not the subject of an on-site investigation.