

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198903746**

Hiller UH-12E

29 January 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.

This accident was not subject to an on scene investigation.

Occurrence Number: 198903746
 Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: Cooroorah Station (32km North of Blackwater) QLD
 Time: 1120

Date: 29 January 1989

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-12E
 Registration: VH-HMT
 Serial Number: HA 3066
 Operation Type: Aerial Work
 Damage Level: Substantial
 Departure Point: Barrain Station QLD
 Departure Time: 1110
 Destination: Cooroorah Station QLD

Approved for Release: March 16th 1989

Circumstances:

At the conclusion of a mustering operation, the pilot flew to a neighboring property. He made an approach to a line of the houses at the property but no-one came out to meet the helicopter. He then decided to hover-taxy to a shed some 90 metres away and land. Whilst taxiing the helicopter at about 10 knots, the pilot suddenly noticed a three phase power line immediately in front of him, angled at about 30` to his track. He attempted to avoid a collision by initiating a back-up but the mainrotor mast and tailrotor became entangled in the three wires. The bubble was smashed by a flailing wire as the helicopter descended out of control. The ensuing landing was heavy, resulting in a collapsed left skid gear. The helicopter remained substantially upright. The pilot later said that the power poles supporting the span were obscured by trees.

Significant Factors:

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

- The pilot diverted his attention from the operation of the helicopter.
 - The pilot did not see the powerlines in time to avoid a collision.
 - The power poles were hidden by trees and foliage.
 - The pilot was unfamiliar with the area.