

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198400020**

Hiller UH-12E

11 May 1984

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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 www.atsb.gov.au.

Occurrence Number: 198400020 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 11 km NW of Pretty Plains Homestead QLD
Date: 11 May 1984 **Time:** 845
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: Hiller UH-12E
Registration: VH-FFX
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Cattle Mustering
Damage Level: Substantial
Pretty Plains Homestead 78
Departure Point: km North of Hughenden
QLD
Departure Time: 845
Destination: 9 km NW of Pretty Plains
Homestead QLD

Approved for Release: 18th July, 1985

Circumstances:

While returning to refuel at a mustering yard, the pilot attempted to move a bull from some trees. When this proved unsuccessful the pilot climbed to continue the flight to the yard. The engine began to run roughly and an approach to a clearing was made. Rotor rpm decayed as some trees were cleared and the pilot was unable to prevent a heavy landing. The helicopter bounced about two metres, the right skid collapsed and the main rotor struck the ground. Investigation revealed that the engine failed due to fuel exhaustion. The pilot's technique was to work on a set endurance from full tanks and not rely on the fuel gauge. At the previous refuelling he filled the tank to the filler neck, but the helicopter was parked on a slope which prevented approximately 20 percent of the tank's volume from being used, and reduced the endurance.