

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198602317**

Enstrom F28 F

01 March 1986

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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: 198602317
Location: Narellan NSW
Date: 01 March 1986
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident

Time: N/A

	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: Enstrom F28 F
Registration: VH-IPE
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Miscellaneous - (Taxying)
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Narellan NSW
Departure Time: N/A
Destination: Narellan NSW

Approved for Release: April 22nd 1986

Circumstances:

The pilot had been carrying out a series of joy flights at a rural field day. Refuelling was taking place from 200 litre drums, which had been placed in the shade of a large tree. On the second occasion that fuel was required, the pilot hover taxied to the drums, which were rolled out of the way on completion of the refuelling. As the pilot started to hover taxi again, the helicopter suddenly rose higher than anticipated and the main rotor struck the overhanging branches of the tree. One rotor blade de-laminated, severe vibration occurred, and the helicopter struck the ground heavily. With the helicopter hover taxiing two feet above the ground, there was only three feet of clearance between the rotor blades and the tree branches. The reason the helicopter rose sharply and struck the branches was not determined, but may have been the result of a wind gust.