

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198803466**

Hughes 269-C

30 June 1988

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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.

This accident was not subject to an on scene investigation.

Occurrence Number: 198803466 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Koolatah (87 km SE Kowanyama) QLD
Date: 30 June 1988 **Time:** 1515
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: Hughes 269-C
Registration: VH-TTZ
Serial Number: 440294
Operation Type: Aerial work
Damage Level: Destroyed
Departure Point: Kowanyama QLD
Departure Time: N/K
Destination: Koolatah QLD

Approved for Release: December 29th 1988

Circumstances:

On arrival at Koolatah the pilot selected a grassed area alongside a track for landing. After landing he shut down the engine. Shortly afterwards flames were observed underneath the helicopter and the pilot and passenger abandoned the machine. The helicopter was completely destroyed by fire which had apparently been ignited by hot exhaust gases.

Significant Factors:

It was considered that the following factors were relevant to the development of the accident

1. The pilot selected an unsuitable area for landing.
2. Long grass underneath the helicopter was ignited by exhaust gases - a known hazard for Hughes 269 helicopters.