

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198803485**

Hughes 269-C

26 September 1988

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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: 198803485 **Occurrence Type:** Accident

Location: Lake Nash NT (150 km WSW Mt Isa QLD)

Date: 26 September 1988 **Time:** 1030

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: Hughes 269-C

Registration: VH-HEA

Serial Number: 670612

Operation Type: Aerial Work (Mustering)

Damage Level: Substantial

Departure Point: Lake Nash NT

Departure Time: 0930

Destination: Lake Nash NT

Approved for Release: 6 February 1989

Circumstances:

While flying downwind at 30 knots about 50 feet above the ground, the pilot attempted to increase power to accelerate the aircraft. There was no response from the engine, and engine and rotor RPM fell as he applied collective pitch. He attempted to slow the aircraft to land but the heel of the left skid hit the ground and the helicopter rolled on to its side. Examination of the helicopter revealed that a very close tolerance fitting in the linkage between the throttle valve and the mixture control valve caused severe binding. This prevented normal throttle movement.

Significant Factors:

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

1. A very close tolerance fitting in the linkage between the throttle valve and the mixture control valve caused severe binding.
2. The binding prevented normal throttle movement being available to the pilot.
3. The pilot misjudged the altitude of the helicopter while attempting to reduce speed.