

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199000591**

Robinson R22

16 June 1990

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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: 199000591

Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: Wave Hill Station NT

Date: 16 June 1990

Time: N/K

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: Robinson R22

Registration: VH-HEU

Serial Number: 187

Operation Type: Private

Damage Level: Substantial

Departure Point: Elliot NT

Departure Time: N/K

Destination: Wave Hill Station NT

Approved for Release: 3rd August 1990

Circumstances:

The pilot had been hired to ferry the aircraft to the operator in Western Australia and had landed to refuel at Elliot. While on the ground, he agreed to deliver a box to the Wave Hill police station and stowed it, unrestrained, on top of a jerry can in the unoccupied seat. The aircraft was reportedly fitted with permanently installed dual controls. On approach to land at Wave Hill Station, the box shifted, fell onto a swag on the floor and restricted the movement of the cyclic control. The pilot was thus unable to manoeuvre to avoid a cattle crate stand and the tail rotor struck one of the rails. The helicopter then landed heavily on its skids.

Significant Factors:

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

1. Inadequate preflight preparation - improperly stowed cargo.
2. Unrestrained cargo moved and caused restricted movement of the flying controls. This accident was not the subject of an on-scene investigation.