

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198800741**

Bell 47G-3B1

21 December 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.

This accident was not subject to an on scene investigation.

Occurrence Number: 198800741

Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: 18 km South Woolner Station NT

Date: 21 December 1988

Time: 830

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: Bell 47G-3B1

Registration: VH-WHX

Serial Number: 6653

Operation Type: Charter

Damage Level: Substantial

Departure Point: Woolner Station NT

Departure Time: 0815

Destination: Adelaide River Bridge NT

Approved for Release: 29 March 1989

Circumstances:

Enroute to collect his passengers, the pilot elected to practice some autorotational landings. He successfully completed an autorotation with a power recovery, then decided to carry out a power-off landing. After ensuring that the touchdown area was suitable, the pilot commenced the manoeuvre from about 400 feet above the ground. The pilot subsequently advised that during the flare he misjudged his height above the ground and the aircraft landed heavily. The main rotor blades flexed and struck the tail boom.

Significant Factors:

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

1. The pilot misjudged his height above the ground.
2. The touchdown was sufficiently hard to allow the main rotor blades to contact the tail boom.