

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198900254**

Robinson R22

30 October 1989

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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: 198900254 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 100 km NE Kununurra WA
Date: 30 October 1989 **Time:** 1100
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-UXM
Serial Number: 422
Operation Type: Aerial Work
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: 100 km NE Kununurra WA
Departure Time: N/A
Destination: Kununurra WA

Approved for Release: 24th January 1990

Circumstances:

At approximately 15 feet above the ground after take-off from a confined area, the engine began to run roughly. The pilot's attention was distracted by the rough running and he failed to see a large overhanging branch. The main rotor blades struck the branch and the pilot lost control of the helicopter which touched down heavily on its left hand side. The rough running had been caused by oil deposits on the spark plugs.

Significant Factors:

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

1. The pilot was operating from a confined area.
2. Engine malfunction caused by oil deposits on the spark plugs.
3. The pilot was distracted by the engine malfunction.