

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198903769**

Hughes 269-C

25 April 1989

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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: 198903769 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Lake Nash Station (160 km West of Mt Isa) QLD
Date: 25 April 1989 **Time:** 1220 EST
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-UOB
Serial Number: N/K
Operation Type: Aerial Mustering
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Lake Nash Station QLD
Departure Time: N/K
Destination: Lake Nash Station QLD

Approved for Release: 1 May 1989

Circumstances:

The pilot reported that, while mustering an animal which had broken from the mob, one of the skids came into contact with the animal. This caused the helicopter to roll and strike the ground causing the tail boom to be severed and destroying the main rotor blades. The muster was being conducted in open country, with no trees in the area. The pilot had evidently allowed the aircraft to descend to an unsafe height during his attempts to return the particular animal to the mob. This accident was not the subject of an on-site investigation.

Significant Factors:

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

1. The pilot was operating the helicopter at an unnecessarily low height.
2. The stability of the helicopter was disturbed, causing it to roll and contact the ground.