

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198203507**

Bell 47-G3B1

09 August 1982

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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: 198203507 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 94 km West of Alice Springs NT.
Date: 09 August 1982 **Time:** 1500
Highest Injury Level: Serious
Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	0	0
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	1	0	0
Total	0	1	1	0

Aircraft Details: Bell 47-G3B1
Registration: VH-FJP
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Cattle Mustering.
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: 30 km NW Owen Springs
NT.
Departure Time: 1500
Destination: 30 km NW Owen Springs
NT.

Approved for Release: 9th April, 1984

Circumstances:

The pilot had just completed a low-level turn to down wind when the helicopter began to sink. He applied power and collective control but was unable to arrest the sink and the tail rotor struck the ground. The helicopter then rotated 3-4 turns to the right and dropped heavily onto its skids. The pilot shut down the engine. Fire broke out and the passenger was struck by the still rotating main rotor as he ran around the tail to reach the boom-mounted fire extinguisher. The investigation did not reveal any fault with the aircraft that might have contributed to the accident. The reason for the helicopter sinking after the turn could not be positively determined.