

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198600686**

Bell 47 G3B1

25 January 1986

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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: 198600686 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 2 km N of Well Tree Station NT(93km SSW of Darwin)
Date: 25 January 1986 **Time:** 1500
Highest Injury Level: Serious
Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	1	0	0
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	2	0	0
Total	0	3	0	0

Aircraft Details: Bell 47 G3B1
Registration: VH-UTX
Serial Number: 6510
Operation Type: Private-Scenic Flight
Damage Level: Destroyed
Departure Point: Well Tree Station NT
Departure Time: 1500
Destination: Well Tree Station NT

Approved for Release: May 12th 1987

Circumstances:

Following the first 50 hour oil change after a recent overhaul, the engineer who completed the overhaul and service, arranged for he and his wife to accompany the pilot on a scenic flight of the local area. The flight was conducted at an altitude of about 400 feet above ground level and proceeded normally for about 15 minutes until the engine suddenly lost power, it then ran roughly momentarily, before stopping. The pilot attempted to land the aircraft in the only available area, a confined swampy area, but during the approach it struck a large tree and crashed into the swamp. The inspection and testing of various components of helicopter was hampered by the aircraft having been submerged in the swamp, and no reason for the apparent loss of power could be determined.