

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198602358**

Robinson R22

19 November 1986

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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: 198602358

Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: 3 km NNE Greta NSW

Date: 19 November 1986

Time: 1130 approx

Highest Injury Level: Serious

Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Robinson R22

Registration: VH-UXI

Serial Number:

Operation Type: Aerial Work (Dual
Instruction)

Damage Level: Destroyed

Departure Point: Maitland NSW

Departure Time: 1130 approx

Destination: Maitland NSW

Approved for Release: May 18th 1987

Circumstances:

Following a period of circuit practice, the instructor was demonstrating some enroute emergency procedures. An autorotation was entered from 2000 feet, with the pilot aiming for a paddock on the side of a river. He advised that descent was continued to about 250 feet above the ground. Shortly after power was re-applied the helicopter collided with a set of power lines and dived to the ground. The pilot had noted two other sets of wires in the area, but had not sighted a set of three cables between the others until immediately before the collision. The helicopter was being operated outside the designated training area. The grey oxidised powerlines, which were estimated to be between 80 and 100 feet above ground level, were very difficult to see against the overcast sky conditions. The span between supporting poles was greater than those between the other sets of cables.