

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199102518**

Bell 47-G5A

2 March 1991

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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: 199102518 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 10km S Lawn Hill (240km NNW Mount Isa) QLD
Date: 2 March 1991 **Time:** 1100
Highest Injury Level: Fatal
Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Bell 47-G5A
Registration: VH-NAG
Serial Number: 25130
Operation Type: Charter
Damage Level: Destroyed
Departure Point: 12KM SSE Lawn Hill
Departure Time: 1040
Destination: 12km SSE Lawn Hill

Approved for Release: 7th August 1991

Circumstances:

Nearing the completion of a survey flight over a mining prospect, the pilot asked the passengers if they would like to see a crop dusting manoeuvre. As the passengers had no objection, the pilot flew the helicopter through a steep 180 degree climbing turn to the left from a height of about 300 feet. During recovery from the ensuing dive, the aircraft struck the ground heavily and came to rest inverted. The surviving passenger was thrown from the aircraft after the initial impact. There was no evidence of any mechanical defect in the helicopter which may have contributed to the accident.

Significant Factors:

The following factor was considered relevant to the development of the accident

1. The pilot attempted a manoeuvre at a height from which he was unable to recover safely.