

Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199000017

Hughes 269A

14 August 1990

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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: 199000017
Location: Barramundi Lagoon QLD
Date: 14 August 1990
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident
Time: 1200

	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 269A
Registration: VH-MQF
Serial Number: 580872
Operation Type: Aerial Work
Damage Level: Destroyed
Departure Point: Abingdon Downs Station
Departure Time: N/A
Destination: Abingdon Downs Station

Approved for Release: 12th March 1991

Circumstances:

The aircraft had been refuelled from drums at a refuelling point located at one end of the lagoon. The refuelling point was surrounded by tall trees, so the pilot decided to hover taxi out over the lagoon and to execute a takeoff from a more open area. The takeoff had to be initiated with a slight tailwind, and the pilot intended to turn and to depart upwind after the aircraft had obtained translational lift. As the pilot initiated the takeoff, the aircraft experienced a tailwind gust and began to lose height. In an attempt to check the descent the pilot overpitched the main rotor. The right skid contacted the water surface and the aircraft simultaneously pitched forward and rolled to the right before coming to rest on the lagoon bed. The two occupants evacuated the aircraft without injury.

Significant Factors:

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

1. The aircraft experienced a tailwind gust as the pilot initiated the takeoff.
2. The pilot overpitched the main rotor while attempting to counter height loss from the gust.
3. Loss of lift resulted in the right skid contacting the lagoon surface. This accident was not the subject of an on-scene investigation.