

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199000600**

Bell 47 KH4

18 October 1990

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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.

This accident was not formally investigated by the Bureau.

Occurrence Number: 199000600
Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: Mataranka NT

Date: 18 October 1990
Time: 1145

Highest Injury Level: Nil

Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Bell 47 KH4
Registration: VH-HFV
Serial Number: 2186
Operation Type: Aerial Work
Damage Level: Destroyed
Departure Point: Mataranka NT
Departure Time: 1140
Destination: Elsey Station NT

Approved for Release: 10th April 1991

Circumstances:

During a short ferry flight to a property for the purpose of conducting shooting operations, the pilot noticed a burning smell in the cockpit and a glow beneath the rear seat. Following an emergency landing the pilot evacuated the aircraft before it was consumed by fire. The pilot reports that he had been carrying signal flares, fuel, oil, grease and dirty rags on and beneath the rear seat. He further reports he had been smoking prior to becoming aware of the burning smell. The Fire Officers Investigation report confirms that the fire had originated in the cockpit and that the source of ignition had probably been a lighted cigarette butt which had come to rest on the dirty rags.