

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
197800035**

Hughes 269C

22 July 1978

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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: 197800035

Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: 42km NE of Normanton QLD

Date: 22 July 1978

Time: 1110

Highest Injury Level: Serious

Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Hughes 269C

Registration: VH-THW

Serial Number:

Operation Type: Aerial Work

Damage Level: Destroyed

Departure Point: Delta Downs QLD

Departure Time: 955

Destination: Delta Downs QLD

Approved for Release: 12th December 1985

Circumstances:

The helicopter was involved in cattle mustering operations. It was being flown at about 50 to 100 feet agl when a sudden yaw to the right developed. Attempts by the pilot to regain control of the aircraft were unsuccessful and it landed heavily while still rotating to the right. Both the occupants were thrown clear of the aircraft which caught fire immediately. The extensive fire damage to the aircraft inhibited the inspection of the wreckage. As a result, no reason for the apparent loss of control could be determined.