

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199001985**

Bell 47-G3B

3 May 1990

Readers are advised that the Australian Transport Safety Bureau investigates for the sole purpose of enhancing transport safety. Consequently, Bureau reports are confined to matters of safety significance and may be misleading if used for any other purposes.

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.

Investigations commenced after 1 July 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the CEO of the Bureau in accordance with the Transport Safety Investigation Act 2003 (TSI Act). Reports released under the TSI Act are not admissible as evidence in any civil or criminal proceedings.

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: 199001985 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Tomalla Station, 65 kms N.E of Scone NSW
Date: 3 May 1990 **Time:** 1330
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	0	0

Aircraft Details: Bell 47-G3B
Registration: VH-JRF
Serial Number: 3286
Operation Type: Aerial Work (Weed Spraying)
Damage Level: Destroyed
Departure Point: Tomalla Station NSW
Departure Time: 1245
Destination: Tomalla Station NSW

Approved for Release: 23rd July 1990

Circumstances:

On the day of the accident, the pilot had ferried the helicopter from Scone to Tomalla Station. He conducted an aerial inspection with the station manager, before commencement of blackberry spraying activities. The accident occurred during the 14th spray flight whilst the pilot was attempting to fly the helicopter between two large trees. The pilot lost control of the helicopter when the main rotor blades struck branches of one of the trees. The helicopter impacted the ground heavily and soon after the pilot vacated the cabin, a fire started which destroyed the helicopter. The pilot said there was sufficeint clearance for the helicopter to pass safely between the trees.