

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
198404495**

**Hughes 269C**

**18 June 1984**

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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](http://www.atsb.gov.au).**

**Occurrence Number:** 198404495 **Occurrence Type:** Accident

**Location:** 27 km WSW of Moola Bulla Station WA

**Date:** 18 June 1984 **Time:** 650

**Highest Injury Level:** Serious

**Injuries:**

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	1	0	0
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Aircraft Details:** Hughes 269C

**Registration:** VH-SMT

**Serial Number:**

**Operation Type:** Ferry

**Damage Level:** Destroyed

**Departure Point:** Moola Bulla Station WA

**Departure Time:** 0650

**Destination:** 37 km WSW of Moola  
Bulla Station WA

**Approved for Release:** 19th July, 1984

**Circumstances:**

The pilot had planned to carry out a cattle muster in conjunction with another aircraft. He had been late in departing his base but when he found the other aircraft had not yet arrived at the rendezvous point he decided to make a quick comfort stop. The helicopter was landed on a spinifex covered area and the pilot disembarked leaving the engine running. Shortly afterwards he noticed a fire underneath the helicopter and reboarded in an attempt to fly it away from the fire. The engine did not respond. The pilot disembarked and attempted unsuccessfully to extinguish the fire. He received burns to his hands and legs while unloading equipment and the helicopter was destroyed.