

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198500151**

Hughes 269C

12 October 1985

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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: 198500151

Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: 97 km NNE of Kununurra WA

Date: 12 October 1985

Time: 1100

Highest Injury Level: Minor

Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Hughes 269C

Registration: VH-SBR

Serial Number:

Operation Type: Charter-Passenger

Damage Level: Substantial

Departure Point: Kununurra WA

Departure Time: 1100

Destination: Kununurra WA

Approved for Release: March 18th 1986

Circumstances:

The pilot was requested, by the passenger, to land the helicopter on the mud flats to the north of Kununurra. He decided to make a run on landing as he believed he may have difficulty in hovering the helicopter. As the aircraft approached the touchdown point, the pilot allowed it to yaw into wind, but it contacted the ground still moving sideways. The left skid caught in the dry mud and the helicopter rolled onto its side. The pilot was inexperienced in the operation of helicopters and had experienced difficulty in hovering the aircraft when he departed Kununurra that morning. The approach to land on the mud flat was poorly planned and the pilot misjudged the altitude of the aircraft during the turn into wind.