

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report**  
**198700725**

**Hughes 269C**

**17 March 1987**

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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:

198700725

Location:

40 km South-east of Alroy Downs NT

Date:

17 March 1987

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

Occurrence Type:

Accident

Time:

1430

Aircraft Details:

Hughes 269C

Registration:

VH-THQ

Serial Number:

Operation Type:

Aerial Work (Mustering)

Damage Level:

Substantial

Departure Point:

Alroy Downs NT

Departure Time:

1430

Destination:

Alroy Downs NT

Approved for Release: June 12th 1987

Circumstances:

The pilot was engaged in a muster of cattle for a brucellosis test. He was chasing a calf that had broken away from the main herd. When the animal turned towards the helicopter, the pilot attempted to take evasive action. He felt the aircraft rock, and believing that it had been struck by the animal, pulled it up to about 40 feet above the ground. The aircraft began to yaw. During the subsequent landing, while still yawing, the landing skids collapsed. The investigation revealed that the animal had not contacted the aircraft. During the evasive action taken by the pilot the tail rotor had contacted the ground which resulted in the loss of directional control. This accident was not the subject of an on-site investigation.