

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198301296**

Bell 206 B

2 June 1983

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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: 198301296
Location: Mt.Perisher NSW
Date: 2 June 1983
Highest Injury Level: Minor
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident

Time: 1600

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

Aircraft Details: Bell 206 B
Registration: VH-AJI
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Carriage of External Loads
Damage Level: Destroyed
Departure Point: Perisher Valley NSW
Departure Time: 1600
Destination: Mt.Perisher NSW

Approved for Release: 12th March, 1984

Circumstances:

Because the external load could not be released electrically, the pilot landed on snow to allow an assistant to release the load manually. After the load was released, the assistant had moved to the pilot's window to discuss the next load when the rear of the left skid began to sink into the snow. The pilot attempted to correct the situation but the main rotor struck the ground and the aircraft rolled over. The helicopter was not fitted with any load spreading devices for operations in snow. Although the pilot had tested the load bearing capacity of the snow, the technique did not provide sufficient indication that the snow could not support the aircraft. An intermittent electrical malfunction is believed to have caused the cargo hook failure.