

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198700756**

Bell 206-B

10 December 1987

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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.

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.

Occurrence Number: 198700756
Location: 7 km NW of Jamestown SA
Date: 10 December 1987
Highest Injury Level: Serious
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident
Time: 1518

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

Aircraft Details: Bell 206-B
Registration: VH-ITH
Serial Number: 3461
Operation Type: Charter (Aerial Survey)
Damage Level: Destroyed
Departure Point: 8 km NW of Jamestown SA
Departure Time: 1513
Destination: 7 km NW of Jamestown SA

Approved for Release: 24 March 1988

Circumstances:

The aircraft was engaged in defining swarms of locusts as part of a control programme. The helicopter was being flown at about 35 feet above ground level, when one of the main rotor blades struck a powerline. Control of the aircraft was lost and it struck the ground in a nose down attitude, 111 metres beyond the powerline. The pilot had flown over the area earlier in the day, but had not sighted the wire. On this occasion he did not make a specific search for wires before commencing the low level operation. The span of wire between the support poles measures 610 metres and although the support poles were easy to see, the wire was not. The pilot was not aware that the helicopter had collided with the wire until some time after the accident.