Aviation Safety Investigation Report 199102505

Bell 206-B

16 January 1991

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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 <u>www.atsb.gov.au</u>.

This decident was not formally investigated by the Daread.						
Occurrence Number:		199102505			Occurrence Type: Accident	
Location:		Heron Island QLD				
Date:		16 January 1991			Time: 1143	
Highest Injury Level:		Nil				
Injuries:						
Ū			Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
		Crew	0	0	1	1
		Ground	0	0	0	-
		Passenger	0	0	0	4
		Total	0	0	0	5
Aircraft Details:	Bell 206-B					
Registration:	VH-HPO					
Serial Number:	3349					
Operation Type:	Charter					
Damage Level:						
Departure Point:	Heron Island QLD					
Departure Time:	N/A	-				
Destination:	Gladstone QLD					

This accident was not formally investigated by the Bureau.

Approved for Release: 4th April 1991

Circumstances:

The pilot reported that after takeoff, at approximately 200 feet above sea level, he heard a loud bang and at the same time the helicopter yawed to the right. He placed the helicopter into an autorotational descent and at the same time activated the emergency pop-out floats. This was followed by a successful forced landing on water with the helicopter remaining upright on its floats. It was later towed to the beach. The pilot's investigation revealed that the main rotor tie-down had not been stowed correctly in the rear locker by the island helicopter ground staff. The tie-down had flapped in the turbulent air beneath the main rotor and wrapped itself around the tail boom and tail rotor. The tail rotor drive shaft was sheared in the process.