Aviation Safety Investigation Report 198703461

Bell 47G-2

25 January 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.

Occurrence Number: 198703461 Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: 3km SSE of Maroochydore QLD

Date: 25 January 1987 **Time:** 1753

Highest Injury Level: Nil

Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Bell 47G-2 **Registration:** VH-RFY

Serial Number:

Operation Type: Charter-Joyflights

Damage Level: Substantial Surfair Hotel,

Departure Point: Maroochydore QLD

Departure Time: 1753

Surfair Hotel,

Destination: Surfair Floter, Maroochydore QLD

Approved for Release: May 14th 1987

Circumstances:

The helicopter was being flown along a beach at 500 feet above ground level when the engine lost power without warning. The pilot turned the aircraft into wind and carried out an autorotation. The subsequent landing was heavy, in soft, uneven sand. Both occupants evacuated the helicopter while the rotor blades were still turning. The pilot stated that as he was about to return to the helicopter and turn off the fuel and switches the right skid broke through the sand and the helicopter lurched to the right rear causing the main rotor blade to sever the tail boom. The cause of the reported engine failure could not be determined. During subsequent testing, the engine functioned normally and no defects were found with the aircraft that may have contributed to the occurrence. This accident was not the subject of an on-site investigation.