

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198800740**

Robinson R22-Beta

13 December 1988

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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.

This occurrence was not the subject of an on site investigation.

Occurrence Number: 198800740 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Elizabeth Downs Station NT
Date: 13 December 1988 **Time:** 1615
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: Robinson R22-Beta
Registration: VH-XZT
Serial Number: 633
Operation Type: Aerial Work
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Tipperary Station NT
Departure Time: 1550
Destination: Elizabeth Downs Station NT

Approved for Release: 24 January 1988

Circumstances:

The pilot approached the helipad flying into a 15 knot wind. He overflew the pad and turned left through 180 degrees and overflew the pad again. The helicopter was then slowed to about zero knots IAS and placed in a tight left turn with the intention of approaching the helipad for a landing into wind. After the turn onto downwind was completed translational lift was lost when the pilot reduced airspeed to close to zero knots. The tight left turn was then initiated. The combination of the loss of translational lift and the turn probably required more power from the helicopter than it was capable of delivering. The rotor R.P.M. decayed significantly as the helicopter was overpitched and a high sink rate developed. A passenger, who was a more experienced pilot, took control and attempted to recover rotor RPM but he was unsuccessful. The helicopter impacted heavily with the ground and a pile of gravel and rolled onto its right side.

Significant Factors:

The following factors were considered relevant to the development of the accident

1. The pilot was relatively inexperienced.
2. The pilot did not maintain adequate rotor R.P.M.
3. The helicopter was overpitched.