

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199800194**

**Bell Helicopter Co
Jetranger**

20 January 1998

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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: 199800194 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Moorabbin, Aerodrome
State: VIC **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Tuesday 20 January 1998
Time: 0940 hours **Time Zone** ESuT
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Bell Helicopter Co
Aircraft Model: 206B (II)
Aircraft Registration: VH-SWH **Serial Number:** 1918
Type of Operation: Instructional Dual
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Moorabbin Vic.
Departure Time:
Destination: Moorabbin Vic.

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on	
		Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial	5500.0	15500

Approved for Release: Tuesday, February 3, 1998

The student with an instructor was practising autorotative landings onto the grass in the helicopter training area in the NE corner of Moorabbin airport. With the student at the controls, the helicopter touched down gently with about 10 kts forward groundspeed. During the ground slide the landing gear skids encountered a patch of sandy loam and dug in. The helicopter lurched nose down. The instructor took over the controls and raised the collective. The helicopter momentarily became airborne before landing firmly. The combined effect of the lurch and the subsequent landing bent the skids, dislodged the aft cross tube supports and caused the main rotor blades to dent the cover to the tail rotor drive shaft.

The instructor had taught students to perform autorotations at Moorabbin for many years. He was surprised at finding a sandy patch in the grassed area commonly used for autorotative touch downs. He has since advised the FAC of the sand hazard. Since the accident, as the grass has progressively dried out in the summer heat, the instructor has noticed several other sandy patches scattered around the airport.