

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199801376**

**Hiller Aviation
UH-12E**

21 April 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: 199801376 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 10km NW Dorrigo
State: NSW **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Tuesday 21 April 1998
Time: 1120 hours **Time Zone:** EST
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Hiller Aviation
Aircraft Model: UH-12E
Aircraft Registration: VH-LUN **Serial Number:** 5032
Type of Operation: Commercial Aerial Agriculture - Other
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Dorrigo NSW
Departure Time: 1110 EST
Destination: Dorrigo NSW

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	ATPL	250.0	2200

Approved for Release: Thursday, May 21, 1998

During a property inspection prior to commencing spraying, the engine failed. The helicopter was about 700 ft above ground level at the time. The pilot attempted to dump the load by the electrical system but this failed to operate. He was too occupied to operate the mechanical dump system. During the subsequent landing, the helicopter rolled onto its side after a cross tube on one side failed. The failed area had been weakened by corrosion and there was evidence of pre-existing cracks.

The engine crankcase was fractured, consistent with a connecting rod failure at no. 5 cylinder. Log book records indicated that the engine had been over-spiced some 200 operating hours earlier. A faulty canon plug had prevented the electrical dump system from operating.

