

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
199700820**

**Hughes Helicopters  
Hughes 300**

**15 March 1997**

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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 Executive Director 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 [www.atsb.gov.au](http://www.atsb.gov.au).**

The Bureau did not conduct an on scene investigation of this occurrence. The information presented below was obtained from information supplied to the Bureau.

**Occurrence Number:** 199700820      **Occurrence Type:** Accident  
**Location:** 1mile East Cotswold Station  
**State:** QLD      **Inv Category:** 4  
**Date:** Saturday 15 March 1997  
**Time:** 0800 hours      **Time Zone:** EST  
**Highest Injury Level:** Minor  
**Injuries:**

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None	Total
Crew	0	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	0	0
Passenger	0	0	1	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>

**Aircraft Manufacturer:** Hughes Helicopters  
**Aircraft Model:** 269C  
**Aircraft Registration:** VH-HEA      **Serial Number:** 670612  
**Type of Operation:** Commercial    Other  
**Damage to Aircraft:** Destroyed  
**Departure Point:** Fort Constantine QLD  
**Departure Time:**  
**Destination:** Fort Constantine QLD

**Crew Details:**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Class of Licence</b>	<b>Hours on Type</b>	<b>Hours Total</b>
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial	8380.0	8504

**Approved for Release:** Wednesday, March 19, 1997

**Sequence of Events**

The pilot was conducting aerial inspections of local roads affected by recent flooding. On board with the pilot were two council inspectors. The pilot reported that the helicopter struck a powerline as he was positioning for a closer look at a damaged section of roadway. The helicopter then impacted the ground coming to rest on the side of the road.

One passenger received minor injuries, the pilot and second passenger exited the helicopter without injury.

The helicopter was fitted with a Pointer 3000 Emergency Locator Transmitter which activated automatically.