

**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.

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
Total	0	0	1	2	3

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:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on		
		Type	Hours	Total
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.