

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199702340**

**Bell Helicopter Co
Sioux**

21 July 1997

Readers are advised that the Australian Transport Safety Bureau investigates for the sole purpose of enhancing transport safety. Consequently, Bureau reports are confined to matters of safety significance and may be misleading if used for any other purposes.

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: 199702340 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 1.5NM SW Daly River Police Station
State: NT **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Monday 21 July 1997
Time: 0830 hours **Time Zone:** CST
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	0	1
Total	0	0	1	1	2

Aircraft Manufacturer: Bell Helicopter Co
Aircraft Model: 47G-3B
Aircraft Registration: VH-JRF **Serial Number:** 3286
Type of Operation: Charter Passenger
Damage to Aircraft: Destroyed
Departure Point: Daly River NT
Departure Time: 0810 CST
Destination: Daly River NT

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial	4000.0	5000

Approved for Release: Wednesday, July 23, 1997

The pilot reported that he arrived at Daly River Police Station at 0745 CST and picked up his passenger who was a NT police officer. The passengers equipment was loaded on board and the helicopter departed the police station at 0810.

The pilot flew approximately 1.5 NM northwest and landed on the pinnacle of an 800 ft high ridge. He said he frictioned all the controls down and secured the helicopter, before assisting the passenger to unload his equipment. The pilot said he and the passenger were about 10 m from the helicopter, and he had just turned to head back towards it when the left skid lifted off the ground about 2.5 to 3 ft. This subsequently caused the main rotor blades to strike the ground. The helicopter rolled over to the right and caught fire. The passenger was struck by flying debris resulting in cracked ribs.

Wind at the time of the accident was gusting from 25 to 35 kts from the south-east. The helicopter was facing a southerly direction on the edge of the mountain range.

