

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
199703984**

**Bell Helicopter Co  
JetRanger III**

**28 November 1997**

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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).**

**Occurrence Number:** 199703984      **Occurrence Type:** Incident  
**Location:** Colo River NSW  
**State:** NSW      **Inv Category:** 4  
**Date:** Friday 28 November 1997  
**Time:** 1145 hours      **Time Zone** ESuT  
**Highest Injury Level:** None

**Aircraft Manufacturer:** Bell Helicopter Co  
**Aircraft Model:** 206B (III)  
**Aircraft Registration:** VH-AZH      **Serial Number:** 3075  
**Type of Operation:** Commercial      Fire Control - Other  
**Damage to Aircraft:** Minor  
**Departure Point:** Wilberforce Base NSW  
**Departure Time:** 1050 ESuT  
**Destination:** Wilberforce Base NSW

**Approved for Release:** Wednesday, February 25, 1998

A Bell 206 helicopter was returning from a fire mapping operation along the Colo River at low altitude. Both the pilot and passenger were reported to be looking for wires when the helicopter main rotor struck a single wire that was strung steeply between two poles. The helicopter was operating approximately 300 ft above ground level.

The helicopter immediately landed to conduct an inspection for damage, before returning to the operating base. A detailed examination by a LAME was conducted at the base before the helicopter was returned to operational service.

