

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199601675**

**Robinson Helicopter Co
R22**

22 May 1996

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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:	199601675	Occurrence Type:	Accident
Location:	Camfield Station, 185km SE Kununurra, Aerodrome		
State:	NT	Inv Category:	4
Date:	Wednesday 22 May 1996		
Time:	1230 hours	Time Zone	CST
Highest Injury Level:	None		

Aircraft Manufacturer:	Robinson Helicopter Co		
Aircraft Model:	R22 BETA		
Aircraft Registration:	VH-FHE	Serial Number:	0662
Type of Operation:	Commercial Aerial Mustering		
Damage to Aircraft:	Substantial		
Departure Point:	Camfield Station NT		
Departure Time:			
Destination:	Camfield Station NT		

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial	261.0	630

Approved for Release: Thursday, May 30, 1996

The pilot reported that he was manoeuvring the helicopter, during cattle mustering, at low altitude and slow speed when the aircraft flew out of translational lift. The helicopter, which was about 10 ft above the ground, descended rapidly and landed heavily. The rotor rpm, which had declined during the descent, recovered to normal after landing.

An inspection disclosed damage to one skid and the lower airframe as well as some rippling of fuselage panels.

The loss of height occurred too quickly for the pilot to take sufficient corrective action. The loss of rotor rpm indicates the pilot may have overpitched the main rotor system.