

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199504137**

**Hiller Aviation
UH-12E**

06 December 1995

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:	199504137	Occurrence Type:	Incident
Location:	17 km W Walcha, (ALA)		
State:	NSW	Inv Category:	4
Date:	Wednesday 06 December 1995		
Time:	1630 hours	Time Zone	ESuT
Highest Injury Level:	None		

Aircraft Manufacturer:	Hiller Aviation		
Aircraft Model:	UH-12E		
Aircraft Registration:	VH-MJV	Serial Number:	5124
Type of Operation:	Commercial	Other	
Damage to Aircraft:	Minor		
Departure Point:	Walcha NSW		
Departure Time:	1320 ESuT		
Destination:	Walcha NSW		

Approved for Release: Friday, June 7, 1996

The pilot was conducting a noxious plant inspection and contour flying about 50 ft above hilly terrain at an indicated airspeed of 20kts to 25 kts.

The helicopter struck a single powerline which slide up the bubble and contacted the flying controls before breaking. Although cyclic control was partially lost, the pilot was able to land the helicopter without further incident.

The powerline had a span of approximately 200 metres between supporting poles and was difficult to detect from the air.