

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199400360**

**Robinson Helicopter Co
R22**

12 February 1994

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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: 199400360 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 5km W Giru
State: QLD **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Saturday 12 February 1994
Time: 0949 hours **Time Zone** EST
Highest Injury Level: Minor
Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None	Total
Crew	0	0	1	0	1
Ground	0	0	0	0	0
Passenger	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	1	0	1

Aircraft Manufacturer: Robinson Helicopter Co
Aircraft Model: R22 BETA
Aircraft Registration: VH-THP **Serial Number:** 0972
Type of Operation: Commercial Aerial Agriculture - Other
Damage to Aircraft: Destroyed
Departure Point: Giru QLD
Departure Time: 0937 EST
Destination: Poletto Farm QLD

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial	1500.0	9300

Approved for Release: Friday, September 16, 1994

The pilot was flying the helicopter in a spraying operation over a paddock adjacent to a farm house. A study of his map and an aerial inspection had led him to believe that a major spur powerline terminated at a transformer near the farm house. However, this was not the case as the three phase powerline continued on in long spans.

He had almost finished the task and required one final spray run at 90 degrees to his previous swaths and the unseen powerline bordering the paddock. As he pulled up after the run, the spray boom collected the wires. The helicopter gyrated, losing the tail boom to a main rotor strike, and crashed some 15 metres beyond the powerline.

The pilot had not seen the powerline at any stage.