

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199400435**

**Hiller Aviation
UH-12E**

20 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.

Occurrence Number: 199400435 **Occurrence Type:** Incident
Location: Moriarty (9km SE Devonport)
State: TAS **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Sunday 20 February 1994
Time: 1100 hours **Time Zone** ESuT
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Hiller Aviation
Aircraft Model: UH-12E
Aircraft Registration: VH-LUN **Serial Number:** 5032
Type of Operation: Commercial Aerial Agriculture/Baiting
Damage to Aircraft: Minor
Departure Point: Devonport TAS
Departure Time:
Destination: Devonport TAS

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on	
		Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial	35.0	4609

Approved for Release: Monday, August 29, 1994

The pilot reported that while flying at 350 feet above ground level, maintaining 50 knots, the engine started to vibrate violently and lose power until it stopped. Prior to the power loss, all temperatures and pressures were normal. The pilot entered autorotation but due to the unsuitable terrain he had to make a very steep descent to put the aircraft onto a suitable landing site. In doing this, he made a heavy touchdown which resulted in a main rotor blade striking the tailboom causing substantial damage.

The engine failure was later determined to have been caused by failure of the number two connecting rod assembly. The failure of the assembly was caused by fatigue crack growth in the connecting rod cap. The factors that contributed to the fatigue crack initiation were not determined.