

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199403782**

**Robinson Helicopter Co
R22 ALPHA**

14 December 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: 199403782 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 18km NE Darwin
State: NT **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Wednesday 14 December 1994
Time: 1255 hours **Time Zone** CST
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Robinson Helicopter Co
Aircraft Model: R22 ALPHA
Aircraft Registration: VH-NOC **Serial Number:** 0440
Type of Operation: Instructional Dual
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Darwin NT
Departure Time: 1130 CST
Destination: Darwin NT

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial	500.0	2200

Approved for Release: Friday, August 30, 1996

The pilot had been undergoing dual instruction, and had been practicing autorotational landings onto a dry mud flat.

One exercise was for the instructor to hold the anti-torque pedals firmly in the neutral position simulating jammed pedals, the pilot terminating the exercise with a run on landing. He made an approach to a larger, and clearer area of the mud flats, but his initial pass was too slow and he was unable to maintain directional control. The instructor took over and completed the exercise as a demonstration, touching down in a straight and level attitude, with a ground speed of approximately 10 kt.

Immediately after ground contact the landing skids broke through the firm top layer of the mud crust, causing the helicopter to pitch forward allowing the main rotor blades to contact the ground. The helicopter then cartwheeled and came to rest on its left side, facing back along the approach path.

