Aviation Safety Investigation Report 198900828

Robinson R22-A

21 September 1989

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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: 198900828 Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: 60 km S Tieyon Station SA

Date: 21 September 1989 **Time:** 830

Highest Injury Level: Nil

Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Robinson R22-A

Registration: VH-HEU

Serial Number: 187

Operation Type: Aerial Work **Damage Level:** Substantial

Departure Point: Tieyon Station SA

Departure Time: 0730

Destination: Tieyon Station SA

Approved for Release: 20th December 1989

Circumstances:

The pilot was operating on a Search and Rescue watch manned from the homestead. When the aircraft did not arrive by the appointed hour, the owner of the station conducted an aerial search and found the pilot by the disabled aircraft. The pilot reported that he was attempting to land beside the portable cattle yards when he backed off to avoid the dust clouds thrown up by the main rotor. In doing so, the tail rotor struck a tree obscured by the dust. An immediate landing was initiated but a heavy touchdown resulted. The tail rotor blades separated from the aircraft before the engine was stopped and the tailboom and skids were twisted from the impact with the ground.

Significant Factors:

The following factors were considered relevant to the development of the accident

- 1. Trees obscured by dust clouds.
- 2. Sponteneous action by pilot to avoid dust clouds.