



J10/2/6877

# SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

## ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<b>Date of Accident</b>	4 May 1998	<b>Time of Accident</b>	0950Z	
<b>Aircraft Registration</b>	<b>ZS-RCJ</b>	<b>Type of Aircraft</b>	<b>ROBINSON R22</b>	
<b>Pilot-in-command Licence Type</b>	CR		<b>Licence Valid</b>	Yes
<b>Pilot-in-command Flying Experience</b>	Total Flying Hours (Helicopter)	2939	Total Hours on Type	Unknown
<b>Type of Operation</b>	Private			
<b>Last point of departure</b>	De Aar			
<b>Next point of intended landing</b>	Vaalwater			

**Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (plus GPS readings if possible)**

N1 – near Grassmere Tollgate

<b>Meteorological Information</b>	Weather was fine, no wind or clouds.				
<b>Number of people on board</b>	1	<b>No. of people injured</b>	0	<b>No. of people killed</b>	1

**Synopsis**

The pilot was on a flight from De Aar to Vaalwater. He did a night stop at Bloemfontein and was en route to Vaalwater the next morning (4 May 1998) when the aircraft struck high tension electrical conductors crossing the N1 highway near the Grassmere tollgate. The pilot was fatally injured in the accident. The investigators were on the scene at 1210 Z.

**Probable Cause**

The probable cause for this accident can be attributed to the fact that the pilot did not maintain a safe altitude for obstacle clearance and was unable to take evasive action prior to contacting the high-tension conductors.

The evidence of coronary heart disease could have been a contributing factor to this accident and might be an explanation for par. 2.2.1. of the report.