



J10/2/7068

A99/077

SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Accident	1 July 1999	Time of Accident	Approximately 0730Z	
Aircraft Registration	ZS-RCX	Type of Aircraft	Robinson R22B	
Pilot-in-command License Type	Private		Licence Valid	Yes
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience	Total Flying Hours (On 19/02/99)	754	Total Hours on Type (On 19/02/99)	145
Type of Operation	Other Aerial Work (Game Capturing Detail)			
Last point of departure	Farm "Lutopi" - Mica Area			
Next point of intended landing	Farm "Lutopi" - Mica Area			

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

Farm "Lutopi" - Mica Area - S24°10'45" & E030°46'36" at Elevation 1 350'

Meteorological Information	Pilot reported: Fine weather conditions prevailed at the time of accident Wind – Calm, Visibility – Good, Temperature - +15°C, No cloud cover				
Number of people on board	1+0	No. of people injured	0+0	No. of people killed	0+0

Synopsis

Due to excessive manoeuvring at low altitude the pilot allowed the tail rotor to make contact with a tree, causing the tail boom to fail, and crashed.

According to the pilot the owner of the helicopter requested him for assistance in a game catching detail. The arrangement was that the pilot could build up flying hours in the helicopter in exchange for boarding and lodging. This arrangement commenced on 23 March 1999.

The pilot held a valid licence with the aircraft type endorsed to his licence.

The helicopter had been maintained in accordance with the approved maintenance schedule.

The pilot was flying at a low altitude prior to the accident.

Probable Cause

The pilot allowed the tail rotor to make contact with a tree, causing the tail boom to fail, and crashed.