



J10/2/7080

A99-089

SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Accident	4 August 1999	Time of Accident	1130Z	
Aircraft Registration	ZS-HXO	Type of Aircraft	Robinson R22	
Pilot-in-command Licence Type	Private		Licence Valid	Yes
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience	Total Flying Hours	600.00	Total Hours on Type	500.00
Type of Operation	Private			
Last point of departure	Wonderkop Nature Reserve			
Next point of intended landing	Wonderkop Nature Reserve			

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

Wonderkop Nature Reserve (23° 14' South and 028° 37' East)

Meteorological Information	Fine, Wind Northerly 15 kt				
Number of people on board	One	No. of people injured	One	No. of people killed	None

Synopsis

The pilot was involved in a game capturing exercise, after all the Zebra were secured in the boma the pilot applied power knowing that he was close to a tree with his tail rotor. He thought that he had cleared the tree when he heard the tail rotor striking the tree.

At the time he had a considerable power setting, he immediately closed the throttle and lowered the collective pitch. He was unable to control the helicopter and crashed sideways into a tree approximately 30 metres from the tree he had the tail rotor strike.

The pilot broke his 3rd vertebra and was airlifted by MRI helicopter to Unitas hospital in Pretoria.

Probable Cause

While carrying out a Game capturing operation, the pilot flew too low above the trees. The helicopter's tail rotor and stabilizer assembly struck a tree and separated from the tail boom, resulting in a complete loss of control. The helicopter crashed sideways into a tree, causing serious injury to the pilot.