



Ref: 7441

SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Aircraft Registration	ZS-REH	Date of Accident	21 December 2001	Time of Accident	0945Z
Type of Aircraft	ROBINSON R22		Type of Operation	Training	
Pilot-in-command Licence Type	Student	Age	34	Licence Valid	Yes
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience	Total Flying Hours	42	Hours on Type	42	
Last point of departure	FAGM				
Next point of intended landing	FAGM				

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

FAGM

Meteorological Information	Fine				
Number of people on board	1+0	No. of people injured	0	No. of people killed	0

Synopsis

On 21 December 2001 the pilot was engaged in a hovering exercise at FAGM. She took-off from taxiway 35, climbing to 5800 ft in the turn and climbing to circuit altitude during the downwind turn.

Another aircraft was at the holding point of Runway 29, waiting for take-off clearance and the student pilot of the helicopter decided to land on the grass before crossing the threshold of Runway 29. This distraction of attention probably caused the pilot to execute a hard landing.

No-one was injured in the accident, but the helicopter sustained substantial damage to the airframe and the skid gear.

The pilot was the holder of a valid student licence, type endorsed and the aircraft type was also signed out in her logbook. She also held a valid medical certificate, which expired on 28 February 2002.

From available records it would appear that the helicopter was serviceable prior to the accident.

Fine weather conditions prevailed at the time of the accident.

No communication between the ATC and the helicopter was made available to the IIC (Investigator-in-charge). No on-site investigation was carried out.

The flight was duly authorised by the operator (NAC Rand) under licence number CAA / 0007.

Probable Cause

It is the opinion of the IIC that the student pilot made an error in judgement regarding the height above the ground, resulting in a hard landing and subsequent damage to the helicopter.