



Ref: 7512

**SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY****ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

<b>Aircraft Registration</b>	ZS-HEP	<b>Date of Accident</b>	7 June 2002	<b>Time of Accident</b>	1200Z
<b>Type of Aircraft</b>	HUGHES 269C		<b>Type of Operation</b>	Game Capture	
<b>Pilot-in-command License Type</b>	Private	<b>Age</b>	20	<b>License Valid</b>	Yes
<b>Pilot-in-command Flying Experience</b>	Total Flying Hours	385.0		Hours on Type	159.7
<b>Last point of departure</b>	Borokalalo Game Reserve (Rustenburg Area)				
<b>Next point of intended landing</b>	Borokalalo Game Reserve				
<b>Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (GPS readings if possible)</b>					
Borokalalo Game Reserve					
<b>Meteorological Information</b>	Fine				
<b>Number of people on board</b>	One	<b>No. of people injured</b>	None	<b>No. of people killed</b>	None
<b>Synopsis</b>	<p>While engaged in a game capturing operation, flying at a height of approximately 150 feet above ground level, a sharp right turn was initiated. While in the turn the engine misfired, causing a severe airframe vibration.</p> <p>The engine continued to run rough, and the pilot, realising that there was a problem, elected to carry out a precautionary landing. While turning into wind it appeared to the pilot that the engine had failed. During an attempted forced landing in dense bush, the main rotor blades made contact with surrounding trees, causing substantial damage to the aircraft. The pilot was not injured in the accident.</p>				
<b>Probable Cause</b>					
<p>During the engine bench test run no malfunction could be detected that could have caused the engine to fail. However, the possibility of fuel contamination could not be excluded.</p>					