



Ref: 7517

SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Aircraft Registration	ZS-RGM	Date of Accident	13 June 2002	Time of Accident	1100Z
Type of Aircraft	ROBINSON R-22	Type of Operation	Game Capture		
Pilot-in-command License Type	Commercial	Age	40	License Valid	Yes
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience	Total Flying Hours	3 592.4		Hours on Type	3 592.4
Last point of departure	Farm Maranda (Letaba Area)				
Next point of intended landing	Farm Maranda (Letaba Area)				
Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (GPS readings if possible)					
Farm Maranda (Letaba Area)					
Meteorological Information	Fine: Wind from the North less than 5kt, Temperature + 25°C				
Number of people on board	1 + 1	No. of people injured	None	No. of people killed	None
Synopsis	<p>On Thursday the 13th June 2002, at approximately 1100Z the pilot accompanied by a veterinarian took-off. The purpose of the flight was to dart a sable antelope. On take-off fine weather conditions prevailed with a light and variable wind from the North.</p> <p>Approximately 6 minutes into the flight the antelope were identified, the helicopter was positioned on the right side of the animal (veterinarian seated left – darting from that side). While flying at a height of approximately 40 feet above the ground and at an estimated airspeed of approximately 30 knots with the veterinarian ready to dart the animal, the engine “backfired” once or twice and shortly there after it failed.</p> <p>The pilot had no option but to execute a forced landing straight ahead. During the attempted forced landing they had to descend through dense bush and trees. On touch down the left skid struck a tree stump and the aircraft rolled-over onto its right-hand side. Nobody was injured in the accident.</p>				
Probable Cause					
<p>The cause of the engine power failure could be attributed to the fact that the veterinarian may have accidentally or without intent disturbed the incorrectly installed fuel shut off lever to the off position during flight in an attempt to dart an animal.</p>					