



Ref: 7659

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

<b>Aircraft Registration</b>	ZS-HRL	<b>Date of Accident</b>	20 May 2003	<b>Time of Accident</b>	±0900Z
<b>Type of Aircraft</b>	ENSTROM 280C		<b>Type of Operation</b>	Private	
<b>Pilot-in-command License Type</b>	Private	<b>Age</b>	49	<b>License Valid</b>	No
<b>Pilot-in-command Flying Experience</b>	Total Flying Hours	705.9	<b>Hours on Type</b>	447.6	
<b>Last point of departure</b>	Witbank aerodrome				
<b>Next point of intended landing</b>	Witbank aerodrome				
<b>Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (GPS readings if possible)</b>					
On the farm Hartebeeslaagte, 10 nm South West of Witbank aerodrome.					
<b>Meteorological Information</b>	CAVOK				
<b>Number of people on board</b>	1+1	<b>No. of people injured</b>	Nil	<b>No. of people killed</b>	Nil
<b>Synopsis</b>	<p>According to the pilot he occupied the left seat and was accompanied by a passenger (who was a vehicle tracker and was seated in the right seat with airborne tracking equipment onboard) and was on a private flight in the Witbank area when the CHT (Cylinder Head Temperature) indication suddenly decreased. He then decided to execute a precautionary landing on an open field approximately 10nm South-West from Witbank aerodrome.</p> <p>During the approach to land, the helicopter main rotor blades collided with a telephone pole situated to the right of the helicopter.</p> <p>The helicopter collided with the ground approximately 12m further on and was substantially damaged in the process.</p> <p>None of the occupants were injured in the accident.</p>				
<b>Probable Cause</b>					
Following an erroneous CHT indication, the pilot attempted to carry out a precautionary landing on an open field but failed to notice telephone lines and a wooden telephone pole to the right of the aircraft. A main rotor strike followed which rendered the helicopter uncontrollable and resulted in a subsequent collision with the ground 12m further on.					