



Ref: 7748

# SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

## ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<b>Aircraft Registration</b>	<b>ZS-RGE</b>	<b>Date of Accident</b>	03 January 2004	<b>Time of Accident</b>	0811Z
<b>Type of Aircraft</b>	ROBINSON R22 BETA		<b>Type of Operation</b>	Private	
<b>Pilot-in-command Licence Type</b>	Commercial	<b>Age</b>	39	<b>Licence Valid</b>	Yes
<b>Pilot-in-command Flying Experience</b>	Total Flying Hours	1189.6	<b>Hours on Type</b>	296.7	
<b>Last point of departure</b>	FAPB (Pietersburg)				
<b>Next point of intended landing</b>	Blouberg Mountain				
<b>Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (GPS readings if possible)</b>					
Blouberg Mountain.					
<b>Meteorological Information</b>	Wind: North East at 15kts, Temperature 12°C, Clouds Cover 6/8, Cloud Base $\pm 8000$ ft.				
<b>Number of people on board</b>	1+1	<b>No. of people injured</b>	None	<b>No. of people killed</b>	None

### Synopsis

On the morning of the accident, the pilot took-off with a technician and radio equipment to do repair work on a repeater station on top of Blouberg mountain. The station had been recently damaged by a veld-fire. On completion of the work, the pilot was flying one of the technicians down the mountain when the accident occurred.

According to the pilot he had successfully lifted-off after completing an IGE (In Ground Effect) hover check and was flying at an IAS (Indicated Air Speed) of  $\pm 10$ kts 2ft AGL (Above Ground level) when he encountered a down-draught, which caused the helicopter to collide with terrain  $\pm 100$ m from the helipad.

The pilot and passenger sustained no injuries and the helicopter was substantially damaged.

The last MPI (Mandatory Periodical Inspection) was certified on 26 September 2003 at 2091.0 flying hours. The aircraft had accumulated a further 79.4 flying hours since the last MPI.

### Probable Cause

Shortly after take-off, the pilot experienced a down draught which resulted in a collision with the ground.