

No: 7/90

Ref: EW/G90/05/13

Category: 2c

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Hughes 269B, G-BRZN

**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Lycoming H.10-360-A1A piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1964

**Date and Time (UTC):** 21 May 1990 at 1422 hrs

**Location:** Rochester airfield, Kent

**Type of Flight:** Private

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 2                      Passengers - None

**Injuries:** Crew - None                      Passengers - None

**Nature of Damage:** Damage to cabin and fuselage, skids, mast, main rotor head and blades

**Commander's Licence:** Airline Transport Pilot's Licence (H)

**Commander's Age:** 65 years

**Commander's Total Flying Experience:** 15,410 hours rotary wing (of which 65 were on type)  
3,530 hours fixed wing

**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The purpose of the flight was to provide some familiarisation flying, including practice emergencies, for a qualified helicopter pilot. The weather was good and a northeasterly wind was blowing at 15 kt gusting to 30 kt. Following take-off from Rochester, the instructor demonstrated an engine off landing from circuit height followed by two practice engine failures from hover height. In each case the pilot under instruction was following through on the controls. As a third engine off from about a 4 ft skid height hover was practised, the helicopter was subjected to a strong gust of wind at the precise moment of simulating the engine failure by closing the throttle. This caused the nose of the helicopter to rise and it drifted to the right. It was still moving to the right when the skids contacted the ground and the helicopter rolled onto its right side causing the main rotor blades to strike the ground. Fuel and electrics were switched off before the uninjured crew climbed from the helicopter through the left door.