

Robinson R22 Beta, G-IFOX, 4 August 1997

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Aircraft Type and Registration:	Robinson R22 Beta, G-IFOX
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-320-B2C piston engine
Year of Manufacture:	1991
Date & Time (UTC):	4 August 1997 at 0800 hrs
Location:	Snowdonia, North Wales
Type of Flight:	Private (Training)
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 - Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None - Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Damaged beyond economic repair
Commander's Licence:	Airline Transport Pilot's Licence with FI Rating
Commander's Age:	33 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	3,250 hours (of which 3,000 were on type) Last 90 days - 114 hours Last 28 days - 38 hours
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The flight was for the purposes of continuation training in mountainflying techniques. The weather was fine with visibility in excessof 10 km, 10 kt of wind with no significant weather and a cloudbase of 5,000 feet. The helicopter departed from a hotel landingsite in Snowdonia at 0835 hrs to operate in the mountains andland on a ridge close to the summit of mount Snowdon.

The commander reported that after an approach to an exposed steep-sidedridge at 3,200 feet amsl near to the summit (see photographs)the helicopter was brought to the hover at a height of 4 feetover uneven sloping ground. He elected to carry out a 'slopingground' landing with the right skid up-slope. Initially therewas a 10 kt cross-wind blowing from left to right and the helicopterwas held in balance with the right skid on the ground for some4 to 5 seconds. Just before the commander lowered the collectivecontrol the helicopter was subjected to a strong wind gust

causing it to roll to the right up-slope. The right skid became caught on a rock and the helicopter rolled rapidly onto its right side causing the rotor blades to contact the surface. Both occupants, who had been restrained by lap and diagonal seat belts, vacated the helicopter without injury. The commander assessed the cause of the accident as being due to dynamic rollover caused by a freak gust of wind.