



A99-097-7088

SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Accident	27/08/1999	Time of Accident	1050Z	
Aircraft Registration	ZS-RHU	Type of Aircraft	Robinson R44	
Pilot-in-command Licence Type	Commercial		Licence Valid	Yes
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience	Total Flying Hours	6 060.0	Total Hours on Type	3 600.0
Type of Operation	Commercial (Netstar Operation)			
Last point of departure	Grand Central Aerodrome			
Next point of intended landing	FAGC			
Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (plus GPS readings if possible)				
Jambulani - Soweto				
Meteorological Information	Fine			
Number of people on board	1 + 1	No. of people injured	One	No. of people killed One
Synopsis	<p>A helicopter equipped for Netstar vehicle-tracking operations was based at Grand Central Airport. At approximately 1030Z the two-man crew received information of a vehicle that was hijacked and was driving towards Soweto.</p> <p>The helicopter got airborne and intercepted the vehicle a few minutes later. While orbiting the crime scene the pilot heard a loud bang, followed by airframe vibration and difficulty controlling the helicopter. Two witnesses on the ground heard a single loud noise, which the initially believed were a gun shot from the fleeing suspects. Two other eyewitnesses who lived nearby stated that they saw the helicopter colliding with the power lines.</p> <p>The pilot was seriously injured in the accident and was air lifted to a nearby hospital. The observer was fatally injured in the accident.</p>			
Probable Cause				
<p>The pilot became fixated with the activity on the ground in the attempt to arrest the suspects and failed to maintain an adequate lookout for hazards, which caused the aircraft to collide with the electrical conductors.</p>				