



A00-100-7243

SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Accident	4 September 2000	Time of Accident	1400Z		
Aircraft Registration	ZS-RHK	Type of Aircraft	Bell 407		
Pilot-in-command Licence Type	Commercial		Licence Valid	Yes	
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience	Total Flying Hours	11 804.9	Total Hours on Type	1 196.7	
Type of Operation	Commercial (Eskom - Sapphire Executive Air)				
Last point of departure	Komatipoort Area				
Next point of intended landing	Komatipoort Sub Station				
Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (plus GPS readings if possible)					
Komatipoort Area					
Meteorological Information	Fine				
Number of people on board	1 + 1	No. of people injured	None	No. of people killed	None
Synopsis	<p>The pilot requested the passenger seated in the left-hand front seat to assist him with the lookout and clearance of obstacles on the left-hand side of the helicopter, during a confined area landing at the Komatipoort Sub Station.</p> <p>On touchdown, the pilot lowered the collective pitch lever and the main rotor blades struck a transformer unit positioned in the seven–eight o’ clock position in relation to the pilot.</p> <p>The main rotor blades were extensively damaged with pieces of debris causing damage to one of the tail rotor blades as well as a hole through the horizontal stabilizer (fin). The transformer unit was also extensively damaged.</p> <p>Nobody was injured in the accident.</p>				
Probable Cause					
<p>Due to inadequate main rotor blade clearance on the left-hand side of the helicopter the main rotor blades struck the transformer unit on touchdown.</p>					