



Ref: 7277

**SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY****ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Aircraft Registration	ZS-RLA	Date of Accident	30/11/2000	Time of Accident	2232Z	
Type of Aircraft	BELL 407		Type of Operation		Private	
Pilot-in-command Licence Type		Private	Age	46	Licence Valid	Yes
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience		Total Flying Hours	828.5		Hours on Type	150.1
Last point of departure		Olifantsfontein – Hernic-Premier Refractories (Pty) LTD				
Next point of intended landing		Duck Point – Sasolburg Area along the Vaal River.				
Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (GPS readings if possible)						
Hartzenbergfontein Area (GPS position) 26° 23’ 25” South 027° 59’ 05” East at Elevation ± 6 100 ft amsl.						
Meteorological Information	Wind - 130°/ 8kt, Visibility 1-3km, Fog Patches, Cloud 6-7/8 Stratus 300-500ft.					
Number of people on board	1 + 3	No. of people injured	None	No. of people killed	4	

**Synopsis**

The pilot who was the Managing Director of an International Company had along with his wife, business associate and his wife attended a company directors function at the St. George Hotel located to the South of Pretoria.

At approximately midnight both couple's were collected by their respective drivers from the hotel and were driven to the Hernic Premier Refractories in Olifantsfontein, where the helicopter was parked.

They departed from Olifantsfontein at approximately 2217Z (00h17 SAST). At approximately 0600Z the morning, Mr. van Rooyen's driver notified the Hernic Premier Refractories that the helicopter had not arrived at Duck Point (point of final destination).

An aerial search was initiated and the wreckage was located at approximately 0830Z.

All four occupants were fatally injured.

**Probable Cause**

On a VFR night flight the non-instrument rated pilot may have entered instrument meteorological conditions and failed to maintain adequate terrain clearance, resulting in the aircraft colliding with terrain.