

Robinson R22 BETA, G-BYOP

AAIB Bulletin No:	7/2000	Ref:	EW/G2000/02/13	Category:	2.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Robinson R22 BETA, G-BYOP				
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-320-B2C piston engine				
Year of Manufacture:	1991				
Date & Time (UTC):	26 February 2000 at 1205 hrs				
Location:	Sywell Aerodrome, Northampton				
Type of Flight:	Private				
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 - Passengers - None				
Injuries:	Crew - Minor - Passengers - N/A				
Nature of Damage:	Damaged beyond economic repair				
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence				
Commander's Age:	32 years				
Commander's Flying Experience:	1,700 hours (of which 1,200 were on type)				
	Last 90 days - 67 hours				
	Last 28 days - 23 hours				
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot				

After refuelling, the helicopter lifted into the hover and, as it taxied rearwards from the fuel pump area, it lost height and the skids struck the ground. This caused the nose to pitch up and the tail rotor contacted the ground. The helicopter spun round several times before coming to rest on its right side. The pilot, who was wearing lap and diagonal upper torso restraint, escaped through a hole in the canopy; he was uninjured.

In his report, the pilot said that he was distracted by people on the ground near the helicopter which led to a lapse of concentration.