

No: 11/83

Ref: EW/G83/06/03

Aircraft type and registration:	Agusta A109A G-HELY (light twin engine helicopter)	
Year of manufacture:	1979	
Date and time (GMT):	14 June 1983 at 1750 hrs	
Location:	Fairoaks Aerodrome	
Type of flight:	Training	
Persons on board:	Crew – 2	Passengers – Nil
Injuries:	Crew – Nil	Passengers – Nil
Nature of damage:	Operating rods of lower undercarriage doors fractured	
Commander's Licence:	Airline Transport Pilot's Licence (Helicopters)	
Commander's Age:	40 years	
Commander's total flying experience:	4765 hours (of which 160 hours were on type)	

The aircraft landed on the runway following a practice undercarriage malfunction exercise. Whilst the landing gear selector was being moved from "emergency down" to "down", the starboard leg collapsed. Subsequent investigation revealed that the emergency system was designed for actual emergencies and was not intended for training, although the Flight Manual did not make this clear. The emergency down selection is made by releasing a "landing gear lever lock" which permits the normal landing gear lever to be moved to an "emergency down" position. It is essential when restoring the system to normal that the "landing gear lever lock" is moved back to its normal position only after the landing gear lever has been returned to its normal "down" position. If the selections are made in the reverse order the "landing gear lever lock" will prevent the landing gear lever from engaging fully in the normal "down" position and will therefore leave the system in an unsafe condition.