

Student, instructor receive minor injuries in helicopter crash at Orange Airport

By FAIRFAX MEDIA

Feb. 10, 2015, 12:30 p.m.



LUCKY ESCAPE: A woman and her flying instructor escaped serious injury when their helicopter crashed at Orange airport yesterday morning. Photos: OLIVIA SARGENT

TUESDAY, 4.30PM:

A MIDDLE-AGED woman and her flying instructor were lucky to escape serious injury when the dual-control helicopter they were flying crashed at Orange airport this morning.

The 53-year-old Mudgee woman was attempting a hovering manoeuvre about 11.44am when she lost control of the small Robinson 22 and its rotors hit the ground, throwing the craft onto its side.

Initial investigations suggest the helicopter was flying only a metre off the ground.

The woman and her 35-year-old Orange flying instructor received only minor injuries, including bruising and soreness as a result of the incident.

While emergency services were initially concerned about a fuel leak, and established a 150-metre exclusion zone around the helicopter, further investigation determined no fuel had leaked from the craft.

Canobolas Local Area Command duty officer Bruce Grassick said the aerodrome emergency management plan was activated almost immediately after the crash in accordance with airport protocol.

Inspector Grassick said emergency services responded quickly and worked well together to ensure all safety measures were in place.

"We're all thankful that everyone walked away from the accident," he said.

"(Although) there was significant damage to the helicopter."

Inspector Grassick confirmed the woman had "very limited flight experience" at the time of the accident.

He said police would work with the Australian transport safety bureau to determine the cause of the crash.

Extracted from:

<http://www.theherald.com.au/story/2874117/student-instructor-injured-in-helicopter-crash/?cs=2452#slide=4>

On 10/02/15 at 17:11:50