

# Helicopter passenger swims 800m with broken leg to raise alarm after crash off Cape Tribulation

By [Josh Bavas](#)

A helicopter passenger swam 800 metres with a fractured leg to raise the alarm after he and the pilot crashed into the sea off far north Queensland.

The 43-year-old man was onboard the helicopter travelling south from Cooktown to Port Douglas after a fishing trip when they ditched into the sea near Noah Beach in the Daintree National Park about 7:45pm on Thursday.

He managed to escape the wreckage and swim to Noah Beach where he came across four campers who alerted authorities.

Senior Constable Russell Parker said it was a mammoth effort.

"He did very very well to get from that crash site to the beach. He's a very, very lucky man," he said.

The 50-year-old male pilot and the helicopter have not been seen since crashing although debris has been spotted north of the crash site.

"We do hold grave fears for the pilot given that we haven't sighted anything of either the craft or him since it went down," Senior Constable Parker said.

Water police, five commercial vessels, and a helicopter searched the area overnight but failed to locate any sign of the Robinson R22 helicopter or pilot and was later called off at 3:30am due to poor conditions.

It resumed later this morning with water police, a helicopter, and patrols of the shoreline by police on foot and using four-wheeled-drives and quad bikes, however heavy rainfall has reduced visibility.

## Debris washes up north of crash site

Authorities are trying to confirm whether debris found off Cape Tribulation this morning belongs to the crashed helicopter.

Alexandra Bay State Emergency Service field officer Lee Klein said a small amount of debris washed up on the beach to the north of the crash site.

"There's been some small debris found on one of the beaches north [of Noah Beach]," he said.

"From what I've been told it's the same colour, but it needs to be clarified."

Mr Klein said a second helicopter which was flying with the downed Robinson R22 has returned to the scene.

Extracted from:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-04-08/helicopter-crash-cape-tribulation-queensland/7309450>

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