

Helicopter crash at Hobart Airport

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UPDATED: Police say the investigation at the scene into a fatal helicopter crash at Hobart airport will stretch into the early hours of the morning.

Tasmania Police Inspector John Ward told reporters police had received calls at 5.23pm about the crash.

Witnesses reported the aircraft had come down south of the airport terminal building.

“I understand it was approximately 200m off the ground when it nosedived towards the ground,” he said.

“As a result, it crashed into the ground near the southern end of Hobart airport, approximately four metres off the tarmac.”

Inspector Ward said one man had died and the other was in the Royal Hobart Hospital with critical injuries.

The aircraft had been severely damaged by the impact.

“It’s broken in half. It’s come from 200m to the ground so it has been written off,” he said.

“It’s a tragic set of circumstances, in particular for the family and my sympathies go out to the family.

“I understand that we have four eyewitnesses to the crash and we’ve taken statements from three of the four.”

It was not clear what had caused the crash and the investigation was likely to take months before it was finalised, he said.

“We haven’t been able to speak to a patient who is now at the Royal Hobart Hospital. He has been in and out of consciousness.

“We will be able to speak to him in the next 24 to 48 hours to build a picture of what has occurred.”

He said police were working through the night as part of the investigation and to clear the runway to allow the airport to reope

Extracted from:

<http://www.themercury.com.au/news/tasmania/helicopter-crash-at-hobart-airport/news-story/98f4d15f7807210429eab3333bf89a9b>

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