

# Firefighting helicopter crashes into dam in Ben Boyd National Park near Eden

• [Elliot Williams](#)



**7pm:** HAZMAT crews were able to cordon off the area and confirmed no fuel or oil had leaked from the aircraft, containment matting was positioned around the wreckage with recovery efforts unlikely until morning.

**6.10pm:** The Civil Aviation Safety Authority confirmed a Bell UH-1H aircraft conducting firefighting operations hit the water at Ben Boyd Reservoir, near Eden at 4pm. The pilot was the sole occupant and no injuries were reported. The Australian Transport Safety Bureau is investigating.

**5.52pm:** A HAZMAT crew has launched a boat to reach the submerged helicopter. Paramedics said the pilot was conscious, breathing and in a stable condition. He was taken to the South East Regional Hospital at Bega. The crash occurred in Ben Boyd Dam off Yarran Road on the western side of the Princes Highway. Essential Energy crews are at the scene turning off generators used to pump water from the dam. It is understood the generators will be moved to another water source to supply the local area.

**5.30pm:** A NSW Police spokesman said paramedics had taken a patient from the scene to a hospital. Emergency crews were alerted at about 4.05pm on Thursday, January 9. At about 4.05pm the pilot transmitted a Mayday message.

The lake near Boyd Town, south of Eden, where a water-bombing helicopter crashed on January 9.

**5.03:** A helicopter conducting waterbombing for the NSW Rural Fire Service crashed into a dam near Eden on the Far South Coast on Thursday afternoon.

The NSW RFS advised the helicopter ditched into a dam at Edrom in the Ben Boyd National Park about 4pm.

The pilot was able to free himself from the helicopter and had safely reached the shore.

The helicopter was contracted to the NSW RFS and had been tasked to the Clyde Mountain fire.

Ambulances were responding to the scene.

Extracted from:

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