

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198803487**

Cessna 172-N

1 October 1988

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NOTE: All air safety occurrences reported to the ATSB are categorised and recorded. For a detailed explanation on Category definitions please refer to the ATSB website at www.atsb.gov.au.

Occurrence Number: 198803487 **Occurrence Type:** Accident

Location: Proserpine QLD

Date: 1 October 1988 **Time:** 1231

Highest Injury Level: Nil

Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	1
Total	0	0	0	2

Aircraft Details: Cessna 172-N

Registration: VH-PJH

Serial Number: 17273502

Operation Type: Charter

Damage Level: Substantial

Departure Point: Proserpine QLD

Departure Time: 1231

Destination: Proserpine QLD

Approved for Release: February 28th 1989

Circumstances:

The pilot reported that as the aircraft climbed through about 300 feet after takeoff, the engine RPM suddenly dropped by 350-400. This was accompanied by rough running. The pilot decided to land in a gravel pit just beyond the airfield boundary. The aircraft was stopped after a ground run of 150 metres but received substantial damage due to the rough surface. The engine problem was probably caused by sticking valve(s). This accident was not the subject of an on-site investigation.

Significant Factors:

The following factors were considered relevant to the development of the accident

1. The engine lost power, probably because of sticking valve(s).
2. The aircraft was landed in unsuitable terrain.