

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198700096**

Piper PA-31P-350

20 February 1987

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Investigations commenced on or before 30 June 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the CEO of the Bureau in accordance with Part 2A of the Air Navigation Act 1920.

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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: 198700096
Location: Cervantes WA
Date: 20 February 1987
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident

Time: 304

	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: Piper PA-31P-350
Registration: VH-HFD
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Aerial Work-Medical
 Evacuation
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Jandakot WA
Departure Time: 0304
Destination: Cervantes WA

Approved for Release: June 15th 1987

Circumstances:

The aircraft was carrying out a night flight to a strip lit by portable fluorescent lights. These lights were spaced 190 metres apart along the length of the strip. During the approach the left maingear struck rising ground, which formed the end of the built-up strip surface, approximately 29 metres short of the threshold. The left maingear drag brace failed and the oleo leg was bent, however, the gear did not collapse and the landing was completed without further incident. The investigation revealed that the strip had been lengthened but the operator had not been notified of the change. The available portable lights had been evenly spaced along the length of the strip. However, due to insufficient lights being available, the spacing between them exceeded double the prescribed spacing and the threshold was inadequately marked. The pilot was not aware of the length and spacing anomalies. Consequently, because of these anomalies, he was presented with a false perspective of the angle of approach and misjudged the approach.