

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198902585**

Piper PA 36-285

18 November 1989

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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: 198902585 **Occurrence Type:** Accident

Location: Tygalgah (5kms north of Murwillumbah) NSW

Date: 18 November 1989 **Time:** 740

Highest Injury Level: Nil

Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Piper PA 36-285

Registration: VH-MYJ

Serial Number: 36-7660039

Operation Type: Aerial Work

Damage Level: Substantial

Departure Point: Tygalgah NSW

Departure Time: N/A

Destination: Tygalgah NSW

Approved for Release: 15 January 1990

Circumstances:

The pilot intended to conduct spreading operations on nearby sugar cane fields. During the latter part of the first takeoff of the morning, the aircraft failed to lift off as anticipated and entered a sugar cane field at the end of the airstrip. The pilot discontinued the take off but the aircraft was substantially damaged when it ran into a ditch, in which lay several disused telegraph poles. The pilot reported the aircraft encountered an isolated tailwind gust during the take off. He said he attempted to dump the load but was unsuccessful due to the damp condition of the fertiliser.

Significant Factors:

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

1. The aircraft encountered an isolated tailwind gust during the critical stage of the takeoff
2. The load did not dump due to its damp condition.