

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
198803424**

**Piper Pawnee PA25-235**

**14 January 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](http://www.atsb.gov.au).**

**Occurrence Number:** 198803424 **Occurrence Type:** Accident

**Location:** Salt Springs (32 km E Clermont) QLD

**Date:** 14 January 1988 **Time:** 600

**Highest Injury Level:** Fatal

**Injuries:**

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	1	0	0	0
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Aircraft Details:** Piper Pawnee PA25-235

**Registration:** VH-KLN

**Serial Number:** 254478

**Operation Type:** Aerial Work (Agricultural Spraying)

**Damage Level:** Destroyed

**Departure Point:** Salt Springs QLD

**Departure Time:** 0555

**Destination:** Salt Springs QLD

**Approved for Release:** February 22nd 1988

**Circumstances:**

The pilot had been engaged to spray a stubble field for Noogoora burr. After flying to the property to be sprayed and loading the required chemical the aircraft took off, about 30 minutes after sunrise, to commence the first spray run. The pilot had chosen to fly the spray runs into the east, although on the only other occasion he had sprayed the field the runs had been made into the west. About 110 metres after commencing the spray run the aircraft collided with a branch of a dead tree and struck the ground. A small fire started and witnesses reported that the aircraft appeared to explode. The tree was the only obstruction in the field and it is probable that it would have been difficult for the pilot to see because of the rising sun.