

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198701414**

Cessna U206A

04 January 1987

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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: 198701414 **Occurrence Type:** Accident

Location: 1 km South Pakenham VIC

Date: 04 January 1987 **Time:** 1635

Highest Injury Level: Serious

Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Cessna U206A

Registration: VH-RPZ

Serial Number:

Operation Type: Miscellaneous (Parachuting)

Damage Level: Substantial

Departure Point: Pakenham VIC

Departure Time: 1635

Destination: Pakenham VIC

Approved for Release: 17 July 1987

Circumstances:

The two parachutists were preparing for a jump in which one pulled the other from the aircraft. During the final stages of the preparation, the reserve parachute of the front jumper prematurely deployed. Both persons were ejected from the aircraft, and the leading jumper struck the tailplane. A portion of the horizontal stabiliser was torn off and the aircraft pitched down beyond the vertical. The pilot was unable to regain any control, and, with some difficulty, abandoned the aircraft. He deployed his parachute at about 500 feet above the ground, and landed safely. The parachutist who had struck the tailplane was initially rendered unconscious, and had suffered a broken right arm. She recovered sufficiently to deploy her main parachute and control her descent when close to the ground. The aircraft was destroyed when it impacted the ground in a steep nose-down attitude at high speed. The inadvertent deployment of the reserve parachute was probably caused by the body movements of the parachutist as she moved to her jump position outside the aircraft. The most likely explanation for the inadvertent deployment was that either the securing pins were not engaged correctly or that the rip chord was too short. The rip chord was not recovered. _