

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
198501388**

**Piper PA25-235 "PAWNEE"**

**8 February 1985**

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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:** 198501388

**Occurrence Type:** Accident

**Location:** 1.5 Km South of Wilmot TAS

**Date:** 8 February 1985

**Time:** 1530 (Approx.)

**Highest Injury Level:** Serious

**Injuries:**

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

**Aircraft Details:** Piper PA25-235  
"PAWNEE"

**Registration:** VH-TOX

**Serial Number:**

**Operation Type:** Agricultural Spraying

**Damage Level:** Destroyed

**Departure Point:** Sprent TAS

**Departure Time:** 1530 (Approx.)

**Destination:** Meander TAS

**Approved for Release:** 8th July 1985

**Circumstances:**

The pilot was conducting the last of his spraying tasks for the day. The paddock had an uphill slope and there were two groups of tall trees at the uphill end. The first run was conducted up the slope but during the subsequent pull up and procedure turn, strong turbulence was encountered. The left wing struck branches in one group of trees, control was lost and the aircraft struck the ground heavily. The fuel tank ruptured, a fire broke out and the wreckage was completely gutted. The spraying was commenced in strong wind conditions and the procedure turn was executed in the lee of the trees. When the turbulence was encountered the pilot banked the aircraft and attempted to fly between the two stands of trees but was unable to prevent the left wing striking a number of branches.