Aviation Safety Investigation Report 198702459

Maxair Drifter XP503

31 May 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: 198702459 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Taylors Arm NSW
Date: 31 May 1987 **Time:** 1650 approx
Highest Injury Level: Serious
Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Maxair Drifter XP503
Registration: Not Registered
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Miscellaneous (Sport Aviation)
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Taylors Arm NSW
Departure Time: 1650 approx
Destination: Taylors Arm NSW

Approved for Release: November 20th 1987

Circumstances:

The aircraft had completed several successful flights during the day. At the completion of a power off descent, the pilot rapidly opened the throttle. The engine began running roughly and then failed completely. During the subsequent glide approach, for a forced landing, the aircraft collided with powerlines which crossed a gully about 350 feet above the ground. One line contacted the pilot's throat, inflicting severe lacerations, and the aircraft descended to the ground out of control. An inspection of the engine did not reveal any defects that could have contributed to the occurrence. This particular type of engine, which has inverted cylinders , floods quickly with rapid advance of the throttle. This flooding with unburnt fuel, swamps the spark plugs causing the engine to fail.