

Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198601420

Piper PA23-250

29 May 1986

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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: 198601420
Location: Essendon VIC
Date: 29 May 1986
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident

Time: N/A

	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 PA23-250
Registration: VH-MBU
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Aerial Work (Flight Test)
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Essendon VIC
Departure Time: N/A
Destination: Essendon VIC

Approved for Release: February 6th 1987

Circumstances:

The pilot was carrying out a pre-flight inspection of the aircraft in preparation for an Instrument Rating flight test. He had selected the flaps down, and began operating the hydraulic hand pump to extend the flaps. After a few pump cycles, the right maingear collapsed and the pilot then noted that the gear selector was in the up position. It was suspected that the anti-retraction valve, which is designed to prevent gear retraction on the ground, was unserviceable. However, no fault was discovered. Tests determined that the gear could be unlocked if the hand pump was operated rapidly, and the pilot advised that he had pumped briskly on this occasion. The check list provided by the aircraft operator did not alert pilots to confirm the position of the gear handle before using the hydraulic hand pump. It was not possible to establish why or by whom the gear selector had been placed in the up position.