

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198602642**

Piper PA25-235

6 March 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: 198602642
Location: Archerfield QLD
Date: 6 March 1986
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident

Time: 1130

	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 PA25-235
Registration: VH-JPT
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Private-Test,Spray
calibration
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Archerfield QLD
Departure Time: 1120
Destination: Archerfield QLD

Approved for Release: February 9th 1987

Circumstances:

The pilot was conducting a flight to check the output of the spray system fitted to the aircraft. During the take-off he heard a noise from the rear of the aircraft and noticed something moving away from the aircraft. He continued with the take-off and two spray runs before positioning the aircraft on a downwind leg for landing. As the aircraft was turned onto the base leg the pilot realised that he could not apply left rudder. The pilot stated that he then intended landing the aircraft on the base leg but found that cone markers blocked the path. The aircraft was then lined up with and landed on runway 22. An inspection determined that the leaf-spring mounting that retains the tailwheel had failed due to fatigue. The loss of rudder control experienced by the pilot resulted from the bending of the left rudder to tailwheel control arm so that adequate left rudder could not be applied. It is considered that the leaf-spring failure should have been detected during routine maintenance or pre-flight inspection.