

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198702406**

Piper PA28-161

27 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: 198702406
Location: Bankstown NSW
Date: 27 May 1987
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident

Time: 2115

| | Fatal | Serious | Minor | None |
|--------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Crew | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Ground | 0 | 0 | 0 | - |
| Passenger | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |

Aircraft Details: Piper PA28-161
Registration: VH-UZT
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Private (Pleasure)
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Bankstown NSW
Departure Time: 2115
Destination: Sydney NSW

Approved for Release: November 23rd 1987

Circumstances:

The pilot intended to conduct a short flight using Night VMC procedures. Shortly after take off from runway 29C, when the aircraft had reached a height of about 250 feet above the ground, the engine commenced to run roughly, with an associated loss of power. The pilot applied carburettor heat, but was unable to regain climbing power. A skidding left turn was carried out to position the aircraft for a downwind landing on the aerodrome. Touchdown occurred on a north-easterly heading near the eastern end of runway 29 on an unlit area. The aircraft bounced and power was applied to effect recovery. During the recovery the aircraft passed over a series of hangars before stalling at a low height and landing heavily on a sealed taxiway. An inspection of the engine revealed that the power loss was caused by a mechanical failure of the right magneto which affected the ignition timing.