

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198903782**

Mooney M20-E

10 June 1989

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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: 198903782
Location: Evans Head NSW
Date: 10 June 1989
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident

Time: 1518

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	3
Total	0	0	0	4

Aircraft Details: Mooney M20-E
Registration: VH-FUN
Serial Number: 603
Operation Type: Private
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Caloundra QLD
Departure Time: N/K
Destination: Evans Head NSW

Approved for Release: 10th August 1989

Circumstances:

The pilot reported that he had moved the landing gear to the down position and obtained the green light indicating that the gear was down and locked. During the landing roll, with a crosswind from the left, the right main gear leg collapsed. The landing gear operating system had been stiff during circuits in the previous week. Maintenance inspection determined that the overcentre link on the right gear mechanism was binding. During extension of the gear the push rod apparently bent and the gear struts did not go over centre. The pilot was not aware of this as there is only one light to indicate gear down and this did not indicate the exact position of the gear legs. This accident was not the subject of an on-site investigation.

Significant Factors:

The following factors were considered relevant to the development of the accident

1. The pilot did not have the landing gear stiffness investigated.
2. Lack of lubrication of the landing gear mechanism.
3. Inadequate design of the landing gear indicating system. (a) A single gear down indicator lamp does not reveal the true position of individual gear legs.