

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198502512**

Cessna 172-N

26 January 1985

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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: 198502512
Location: Albury NSW
Date: 26 January 1985
Highest Injury Level: Serious
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident

Time: 1302

	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: Cessna 172-N
Registration: VH-WND
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Test Flight
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Albury NSW
Departure Time: 1302
Destination: Albury NSW

Approved for Release: 29th May, 1985

Circumstances:

Following a report of engine rough running a section of an exhaust valve was found to have broken away. A new cylinder assembly including an exhaust valve was fitted, but on take-off for a test flight the engine suddenly suffered a substantial loss of power. During the subsequent forced landing the aircraft ran through a fence and came to rest in a ditch. Two cylinder assemblies were found to have suffered internal damage and pieces of the missing section of the previously replaced exhaust valve were found within the induction system. Although the engine had been ground run by the engineers it had not been tested to full power. As the pilot was asked to limit taxiing and idling times to avoid overheating the new cylinder, engine run-up and pre-flight checks were conducted whilst taxiing. Take-off was commenced 230 metres along the 1900 metre runway and this was the first full power demand made on the engine since its repair. At about 250 feet agl a power loss was experienced, full flap was not used for the forced landing attempt and the aircraft struck the ditch which was 274 metres past the end of the runway.