

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198702417**

Cessna 180 G

6 August 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: 198702417 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Eagle Creek (15 km South of Tenterfield) NSW
Date: 6 August 1987 **Time:** N/A
Highest Injury Level: Minor
Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Cessna 180 G
Registration: VH-MJC
Serial Number: 18051365
Operation Type: Private (Business)
Damage Level: Destroyed
Departure Point: Eagle Creek NSW
Departure Time: N/A
Destination: Surfers Gardens QLD

Approved for Release: November 20th 1987

Circumstances:

The aircraft had been parked in the open and was exposed to a heavy frost. The pilot and his son attempted to clear ice accumulations from the top surfaces of the aerofoils by throwing warm water over them. Some 20-25 minutes elapsed between the ice clearing operation and the takeoff attempt, during which time the aircraft was taxied to the airstrip and a second passenger emplaned. No further checks were made for new accumulations of ice. Following lift off, the aircraft commenced an uncommanded turn to the right. By the use of full left aileron and left rudder, the pilot was able to regain some directional control, but could not prevent the aircraft from striking boulders on the side of the strip. During the subsequent ground slide, the fuel system was broached and the aircraft was destroyed in the resulting fire. Post crash inspection of the aircraft revealed that the rudder had been fouling the elevator control, thereby preventing adequate control travel, for continued flight under the existing conditions.