

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198700724**

Cessna 172-D

14 March 1987

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Investigations commenced on or before 30 June 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the CEO of the Bureau in accordance with Part 2A of the Air Navigation Act 1920.

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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: 198700724 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Ceres Downs Station, 180km South-east of Darwin NT
Date: 14 March 1987 **Time:** 0948
Highest Injury Level: Minor
Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Cessna 172-D
Registration: VH-DEN
Serial Number: 172 49695
Operation Type: Private
Damage Level: Destroyed
Departure Point: Ceres Downs Station NT
Departure Time: 946
Destination: Batchelor NT

Approved for Release: September 2nd 1987

Circumstances:

At about 500 feet above ground level after takeoff, just after the pilot commenced a left turn, the engine lost power. The pilot was unable to rectify the problem and chose a cleared area in which to land. During the approach it became obvious to the pilot that the aircraft would not make the selected area and he decided to land on a bush track. The aircraft touched down on the nosewheel and bounced, then touched down again before running through thick grass, coming to rest 74 metres beyond the second point of touchdown. A fire then broke out in the engine compartment, which subsequently destroyed the aircraft. The inspection of the wreckage was hampered by fire damage. However, a strip of the engine did not reveal any defects that may have contributed to the reported engine failure.