

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198500127**

Cessna 172N

22 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: 198500127

Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: 34 km SW of Esperance WA

Date: 22 January 1985

Time: 1555

Highest Injury Level: Nil

Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Cessna 172N

Registration: VH-KGA

Serial Number:

Operation Type: Pleasure

Damage Level: Substantial

Departure Point: Esperance WA

Departure Time: 1515

Destination: Esperance WA

Approved for Release: 9th May, 1985

Circumstances:

As part of his pre-flight inspection, the pilot completed a water check on each of the wing tanks and operated the fuel strainer knob, although a sample was not drawn from this point. During the flight the pilot noticed a strong smell of fuel and as he turned back towards the DEPARTURE aerodrome the engine lost power. The pilot carried out a forced landing into an area of dense light timber, during which the aircraft struck several trees. The fuel strainer drain was found to be open due to a kink in the operating cable and the pilot had not checked that the drain had closed after its operation during the pre-flight inspection. During flight loss of fuel through the strainer drain resulted in a gradual loss of fuel pressure and the engine lost power due to fuel starvation after about 40 minutes of flight.