Aviation Safety Investigation Report 198902542

Piper PA44

07 February 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: 198902542 Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: Bankstown Airport NSW

Date: 07 February 1989 **Time:** 1658

Highest Injury Level: Nil

Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Piper PA44
Registration: VH-IJA
Serial Number: 44-7995156
Operation Type: Aerial Work
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Bankstown NSW

Departure Time: 1445 Approx. **Destination:** Bankstown NSW

Approved for Release: 1st November 1990

Circumstances:

The left seat pilot was undergoing his second session of endorsement training in the aircraft. After a cross country exercise under simulated instrument flight conditions, the aircraft returned for a landing on runway 11 Left. The pilots reported that the undercarriage was selected down on the downwind leg, and confirmed by three green lights and the left engine nacelle mirror. The approach and landing were reported to be normal, with initial touchdown on the main wheels. Soon after the nosewheel contacted the ground, the nosegear collapsed. Examination of the nose gear downlock mechanism, indicated that it had been subjected to considerable forces which could only be attributed to a heavy landing or landings. These forces had dislodged the downlock roller and stop bolt away from the downlock hook. Subsequent forces then allowed the nosegear to retract and hence collapse.

Significant Factors:

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

1. Nosegear mechanism had been damaged by a heavy landing or landings. This accident was not the subject of an on-scene investigation.