

Aviation Safety Investigation Report 198302312

Gyroglider

6 March 83

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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: 198302312
Location: Penfield VIC
Date: 6 March 83
Highest Injury Level: Serious
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident

Time: N/A

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

Aircraft Details: Gyroglider
Registration: N/A
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Dual Training
Damage Level: Destroyed
Departure Point: Penfield VIC
Departure Time: N/A
Destination: Penfield VIC

Approved for Release: 23rd November, 1984

Circumstances:

The gyroglider was being towed in alternate directions along a strip. There was a 10 knot wind component along the strip direction and the temperature was 34 degrees Celsius. During one downwind towing sequence the wind speed increased. The pilot signalled for a higher towing speed, but as the vehicle driver had been instructed to observe a limit of 80 kph, he did not increase speed further. The gyroglider subsequently landed heavily and overturned. The high density altitude conditions, coupled with the gusting tailwind and aircraft weight approaching the maximum permissible, required a towing airspeed higher than normal. Towing speed was limited by fixed ground speed limits.