

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198701435**

Beech C24R

10 June 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: 198701435
Location: Moorabbin VIC
Date: 10 June 1987
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident

Time: 1730

	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: Beech C24R
Registration: VH-EDN
Serial Number: MC557
Operation Type: Private (Pleasure)
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Moorabbin
Departure Time: 1610
Destination: Moorabbin

Approved for Release: October 30th 1987

Circumstances:

The pilot was conducting his first solo flight in the aircraft type following a short dual check. During his return to Moorabbin he noted what he considered to be a radio failure. He was concerned because of approaching last light, and made a no-radio entry return to the aerodrome. He made two circuits during which he attempted to extend the gear and flaps using their normal, electrically powered, systems. Although unable to obtain a gear down indication and because he was of the opinion that the problem was related solely to the radios, he elected to land the aircraft without considering the use of the emergency gear extension system. The aircraft subsequently touched down with both gear and flap retracted. Investigation revealed that the aircraft battery was discharged. The pilot had not turned on the alternator field switch during the pre-start or pre-taxy checks. He was surprised to learn of the existence of the field switch when it was mentioned during the subsequent interview.