

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
198300001**

**Piper PA 25-235**

**3 January 1983**

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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](http://www.atsb.gov.au).**

**Occurrence Number:** 198300001 **Occurrence Type:** Accident

**Location:** 11 km East of Gatton QLD

**Date:** 3 January 1983 **Time:** 1330

**Highest Injury Level:** Fatal

**Injuries:**

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	1	0	0	0
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Aircraft Details:** Piper PA 25-235

**Registration:** VH-PIK

**Serial Number:**

**Operation Type:** Agricultural-Crop Spraying

**Damage Level:** Destroyed

**Departure Point:** Tenthill (3 km S of Gatton)

**Departure Time:** 1330

**Destination:** Tenthill (3 km S of Gatton)

**Approved for Release:** 27th February, 1984

**Circumstances:**

The pilot was engaged in the chemical spraying of several properties in the general vicinity of his own property near Gatton. After completing the spraying of two properties, the pilot began positioning the aircraft in order to spray his own crop. A witness observed the aircraft as it turned to the right and flew at low level beneath power lines across a highway. The aircraft was then seen to bank slightly to the right and strike another set of power lines on the opposite side of the highway. Two of the wires were broken and the third remained entangled with the aircraft. The aircraft struck the ground in an inverted attitude. The power lines struck by the aircraft had been erected about three weeks before the accident. They had been erected at the request of the pilot to service a portion of his property. He had flown under the wires on several occasions in the preceding three weeks.

**Significant Factors:**

1. The pilot was familiar with the area in which the power lines had been erected.
2. The power lines had only recently been erected.
3. For reasons not determined the pilot apparently did not see the power lines.