

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198401388**

Piper PA 28-140

6 July 1984

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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: 198401388

Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: 4 km North Bankstown NSW

Date: 6 July 1984

Time: 2215 on 5/7/84

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: Piper PA 28-140

Registration: VH-TVJ

Serial Number:

Operation Type: Private (Travel)

Damage Level: Substantial

Departure Point: Coffs Harbour NSW

Departure Time: 2215 on 5/7/84

Destination: Bankstown NSW

Approved for Release: August 14th 1986

Circumstances:

About 5 minutes after his estimated arrival time the pilot reported that he was uncertain of his position. Attempts to locate the aircraft were unsuccessful until the pilot climbed to 6000 feet and 22 minutes after the initial call the aircraft was radar identified 78 kilometres north of Sydney. The aircraft was vectored towards Bankstown but about 9 kilometres from the aerodrome the pilot advised that the aircraft was out of fuel. A forced landing was carried out onto a suburban street, during which power lines and a power pole were struck. The aircraft had departed with adequate fuel to conduct the flight. The pilot had only limited experience with night operations and had not maintained a detailed navigation log. He had apparently not been aware of the critical fuel state of the aircraft until about 10 minutes before the engine failure, which occurred 56 minutes after the position uncertainty was reported.