

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198502574**

Piper PA 25-235

18 December 1985

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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: 198502574
Location: 19 km SW Lismore NSW
Date: 18 December 1985
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident
Time: 1400 aprx

	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 25-235
Registration: VH-MCH
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Private (Aerial Survey)
Damage Level: Destroyed
Departure Point: Lismore NSW
Departure Time: 1330
Destination: Lismore NSW

Approved for Release: August 21st 1986

Circumstances:

The pilot was carrying out a survey of various properties he intended to spray in the near future. While climbing to return to Lismore after surveying the last property, the engine suddenly ran roughly and then stopped. The pilot was committed to a forced landing on unsuitable terrain, and the aircraft collided with a windrow of fallen trees 146 metres after touchdown. A fire then broke out and engulfed the wreckage. The subsequent investigation revealed that there had been no failure of the internal components of the engine, however the fire had destroyed many of the accessories, including the carburettor and parts of the fuel system. The fuel filter outlet elbow was not an aircraft standard part, and there was inadequate sealing between this elbow and the fuel outlet hose. However, whether this had any bearing on the development of the accident could not be established, and the cause of the engine failure remains undetermined.