

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198803472**

Piper PA28-161

31 July 1988

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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: 198803472 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Maggieville (20 km NNE Normanton) QLD
Date: 31 July 1988 **Time:** 1630
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	1
Total	0	0	0	2

Aircraft Details: Piper PA28-161
Registration: VH-MSN
Serial Number: 28-7816668
Operation Type: Private
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Maggieville QLD
Departure Time: 1625
Destination: Maggieville QLD

Approved for Release: November 7th 1988

Circumstances:

The pilot was landing at a strip aligned 070 degrees. He estimated the wind to have been gusting 20-25 knots from 090-120 degrees. Neither drift nor turbulence were excessive on finals. However, as the aircraft was flared, it suddenly rolled rapidly left to what the pilot judged was more than 60 degrees of bank. Despite the application of full power and opposite rudder, the pilot was unable to prevent the left wing contacting the upper branches of trees to the left of the strip. This resulted in the aircraft striking the ground nose first and coming to rest 80 metres left of the strip. The conditions existing at the time of the accident were such that strong wind gusts were possible. Other pilots who had used the strip reported experiencing wind gusts at a similar stage of the approach.

Significant Factors:

It was considered that the following factors were relevant to the development of the accident

1. The aircraft encountered a strong wind gust as the pilot flared for landing.
2. The resultant wing drop faced the pilot with an unforeseen situation which he was unable to correct before the left wing struck trees.