

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198803502**

Piper PA24-260

18 November 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: 198803502 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Kaiuroo Station, 115km WNW of Rockhampton QLD
Date: 18 November 1988 **Time:** 1455
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 PA24-260
Registration: VH-TMZ
Serial Number: 24-4930
Operation Type: Private
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Kaiuroo Station QLD
Departure Time: N/K
Destination: Kaiuroo Station QLD

Approved for Release: 7 February 1989

Circumstances:

Following an aerial search for two people missing in the Dingo area, the pilot stopped the aircraft to let the observers deplane. He then taxied his aircraft along a grassed taxiway to the hangar. During this taxiing, the left main wheel entered a deep hole, which had not been sighted by the pilot. The owner/pilot had recently had a "pop-up" sprinkler system installed along the taxiway. The work involved lengthy excavation. The aircraft had been taxied into a hole inadvertently left by the contractor. The pilot had been in the habit of leaving the aircraft near the strip while the work was in progress, but on this occasion he decided to hangar the aircraft to avoid any unnecessary risk of damage to the parked aircraft by stock. This accident was not the subject of an on-site investigation.

Significant Factors:

The following factors were considered relevant to the development of the accident

1. Contractor inadvertently left open excavation following the installation of a sprinkler system.
2. The obstruction was unmarked.
3. The pilot did not check that the taxiway was suitable for operations and did not see the excavation.