

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198802397**

Piper PA28-140

17 October 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: 198802397
Location: Inverell NSW
Date: 17 October 1988
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident

Time: 930

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	2
Total	0	0	0	3

Aircraft Details: Piper PA28-140
Registration: VH-RSL
Serial Number: 28-7525234
Operation Type: Private
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Armidale NSW
Departure Time: N/K
Destination: Inverell NSW

Approved for Release: 29 June 1989

Circumstances:

The pilot reported that he was making a landing approach in strong and gusty crosswind conditions. There was considerable turbulence in the area. On very short final the aircraft encountered an updraft. The pilot reduced power almost to idle, and the aircraft then entered an area of strong sink and lost airspeed. Although substantial power was re-applied, the pilot said he was unable to prevent the aircraft from contacting the runway in a nose-low attitude. The nose gear collapsed and the aircraft slid to a halt on the runway.

Significant Factors:

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

1. Gusty, turbulent wind conditions.
2. The pilot was unable to maintain airspeed and arrest a high sink rate.
3. Heavy landing in a nose-low attitude.