

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198802352**

Piper PA28-181

17 March 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: 198802352 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: "Atholstone", 38 km west of Narrabri NSW
Date: 17 March 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 PA28-181
Registration: VH-NAR
Serial Number: 28 8290106
Operation Type: Charter
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Moree NSW
Departure Time: 1600
Destination: "Atholstone" NSW

Approved for Release: February 28th 1989

Circumstances:

The pilot was conducting a charter flight to a property with a student pilot as passenger. The weather in the area of the destination was overcast with local rain showers and thunderstorms. Approaching the property the pilot made a long descent, under the cloud cover, to a low altitude to attract the attention of the property owner so that he would meet the aircraft on its arrival. At the bottom of the descent, as the pilot applied power for the go-around, the aircraft collided with powerlines. Slack in the long powerline span, and its separation from the support poles during the impact, allowed the aircraft to carry forward and land straight ahead on a road. During the landing roll the aircraft collided with heavy farm equipment parked at the side of the road causing severe damage to the tailplane and left hand flap. The pilot and passenger were wearing sunglasses in reduced light conditions which may have contributed to their failure to see the powerlines.

Significant Factors:

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

1. The pilot descended to a low altitude to attract the attention of the property owner.
2. The pilot was wearing sunglasses in the reduced light conditions under the cloud cover.