

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198902578**

Piper PA25-235

22 September 1989

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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: 198902578 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: "Avondale" 20Km west of Condobolin NSW
Date: 22 September 1989 **Time:** 1100
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 PA25-235
Registration: VH-PPV
Serial Number: 25-3140
Operation Type: Aerial Work
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: "Avondale" NSW
Departure Time:
Destination: Avondale NSW

Approved for Release: 20th December 1989

Circumstances:

The aircraft had been engaged in spraying operations and was about to takeoff after refilling with water. During loading the aircraft had been positioned on a heading of about 30 degrees to the left of the takeoff direction. The pilot turned the aircraft onto the takeoff heading and commenced the takeoff run. Shortly after the aircraft struck a concrete water trough positioned near the edge of the strip which had not been seen by the pilot. Substantial damage was caused to the propeller and left landing gear.

Significant Factors:

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

1. The pilot diverted his attention from the operation of the aircraft.