

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198702421**

Piper PA28-161

13 September 1987

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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: 198702421
Location: Schofields NSW
Date: 13 September 1987
Highest Injury Level: Fatal
Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Piper PA28-161
Registration: VH-MHE
Serial Number: 28-7916193
Operation Type: Private (Pleasure)
Damage Level: Destroyed
Departure Point: Schofields NSW
Departure Time: 1635
Destination: Schofields NSW

Approved for Release: 14 March 1988

Circumstances:

The pilot had been authorised to carry out circuit and landing practice. He had been operating for about 20 minutes when witnesses observed that immediately after lift-off from a touch and go landing, the aircraft assumed a higher than normal nose attitude. At an height of between 100 and 150 feet above the runway, the engine noise ceased and the aircraft pitched forward to a steep nose down attitude. This attitude was maintained until the aircraft impacted the ground, before coming to rest 50 metres to the right of the runway centreline. A subsequent investigation determined that the pilot had probably suffered a heart attack at about the point of lift-off, resulting in incapacitation and loss of aircraft control.