

Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198503499

Piper PA23-250

20 February 1985

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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: 198503499
Location: Palm Island QLD
Date: 20 February 1985
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident

Time: 820

	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 PA23-250
Registration: VH-JEN
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Carriage of Passengers
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Townsville QLD
Departure Time: 0820
Destination: Palm Island QLD

Approved for Release: 14th May, 1985

Circumstances:

The pilot stated that when braking was applied after touchdown, the aircraft did not decelerate normally. A go around was carried out, and after the aircraft became airborne, the nosewheel struck a fence. As a result the nosewheel became misaligned and the nose gear collapsed during the subsequent landing at Townsville. Upon arrival the pilot had to orbit for 5 minutes to allow a rain squall to pass. Without overflying the strip he assessed that the wind favoured a landing direction which placed him presently in a wide base position. Due to standing water on the grass strip and a tailwind component, deceleration was minimal. By the time a go around was initiated the aircraft had entered an area of long grass. The flaps were left in the landing position during the go around, this further increased drag and added substantially to the ground run.