

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198200009**

Piper PA28-140

14 February 1982

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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: 198200009
Location: Mareeba QLD
Date: 14 February 1982
Highest Injury Level: Serious
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident

Time: 0955

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

Aircraft Details: Piper PA28-140
Registration: VH-PYA
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Pleasure
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Mareeba QLD
Departure Time: 954
Destination: Mareeba QLD

Approved for Release: 20th March 1985

Circumstances:

The engine suffered a gradual power loss after take-off until the aircraft could no longer sustain level flight. During the subsequent attempted forced landing the aircraft stalled while the pilot was attempting to avoid obstructions. The only defect found on examination of the engine was a loose connection in the high tension lead from the left magneto to the number 1 cylinder. This, by itself, should not have caused as great a loss of power as was reported by the pilot. The aircraft was overloaded by some 70 kg and this would have contributed to the reduction in aircraft performance.