

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198602672**

Piper PA24-260

22 November 1986

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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: 198602672
Location: Toowoomba QLD
Date: 22 November 1986
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident

Time: 0919

	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 PA24-260
Registration: VH-MCW
Serial Number: 24-5011
Operation Type: Aerial Work
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Toowoomba QLD
Departure Time: 909
Destination: Coolangatta QLD

Approved for Release: 23/06/1988

Circumstances:

The pilot established two-way communications with Brisbane Flight Service Unit whilst taxiing for take-off. After take-off he attempted unsuccessfully to pass a departure message - checks revealed an electrical failure. The pilot elected to return to Toowoomba and noticed enroute that the radio operated intermittently. In the circuit he selected wheels down and stated that he saw the "gear down and locked" indicator illuminate momentarily and heard the gear motor run. The aircraft was subsequently landed wheels up. Investigation revealed that the connector for the battery earth strap was broken, causing an intermittent electrical supply. The pilot had not checked the emergency gear system to verify the position of the gear.