

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199001136**

Piper PA25-235

5 February 1990

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Investigations commenced on or before 30 June 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the CEO of the Bureau in accordance with Part 2A of the Air Navigation Act 1920.

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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.

This accident was not formally investigated by the Bureau.

Occurrence Number: 199001136 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 16 km NNE of Tatura VIC
Date: 5 February 1990 **Time:** 1005
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-EHR
Serial Number: 25-7405643
Operation Type: Aerial Work
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Tatura VIC
Departure Time: 0935
Destination: Tatura VIC

Approved for Release: 23rd March 1990

Circumstances:

The pilot was conducting a clean-up run on a crop of tomatoes, which involved flying under a main set of power lines and a branch line. He was aware of the positions of both lines. The pilot flew under the branch line and started to pull up, when he suddenly saw the main line. He then attempted to go under that line but made contact with the rudder, part of which was torn off by the impact. The pilot advised that he applied full power and full forward stick to try and counter the nose high/slow speed situation. The aircraft was vibrating badly with associated noise coming from the rear. This was later determined to be from the detached portion of rudder attached to the wire deflector cable, flailing in the slipstream and striking the rear fuselage and elevators. Because of this the pilot decided to land straight ahead immediately, however, the landing area subsequently proved to be unsuitable resulting in further damage to the aircraft.