

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199800233**

**Piper Aircraft Corp
Pawnee Brave**

21 January 1998

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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: 199800233 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 10km NW Nyngan, Aerodrome
State: NSW **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Wednesday 21 January 1998
Time: 1145 hours **Time Zone** ESuT
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Piper Aircraft Corp
Aircraft Model: PA-36-300
Aircraft Registration: VH-FUE **Serial Number:** 36-7760067
Type of Operation: Commercial Aerial Agriculture - Other
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Tocumwal NSW
Departure Time: 1120 ESuT
Destination: Nyngan NSW

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial	20.0	2261

Approved for Release: Monday, May 25, 1998

While returning to the airstrip to reload for another spray run, the aircraft experienced severe engine surge with associated rough running. The pilot selected the fuel boost pump on, but with little improvement. He then elected to make a forced landing. While stretching the glide, the aircraft stalled at about five feet AGL and landed heavily in a soft earth paddock. This resulted in the left main landing gear failing, followed by the nose impacting with sufficient force to tear the engine from its mounts. Inspection by the company found the main fuel filter not lockwired allowing the filter assembly to come loose and starve the engine of fuel.

