

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
199702334**

**Piper Aircraft Corp  
Pawnee**

**21 July 1997**

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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](http://www.atsb.gov.au).**

**Occurrence Number:** 199702334      **Occurrence Type:** Accident  
**Location:** 9km NW Shelford  
**State:** VIC      **Inv Category:** 4  
**Date:** Monday 21 July 1997  
**Time:** 1409 hours      **Time Zone:** EST  
**Highest Injury Level:** Minor  
**Injuries:**

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None	Total
Crew	0	0	1	0	1
Ground	0	0	0	0	0
Passenger	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

**Aircraft Manufacturer:** Piper Aircraft Corp  
**Aircraft Model:** PA-25-235  
**Aircraft Registration:** VH-SWN      **Serial Number:** 25 5093  
**Type of Operation:** Commercial      Aerial Agriculture - Other  
**Damage to Aircraft:** Destroyed  
**Departure Point:** Shelford Vic  
**Departure Time:**  
**Destination:** Shelford Vic

**Crew Details:**

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on	
		Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial	12000.0	13000

**Approved for Release:** Tuesday, August 19, 1997

The pilot was spraying crops adjacent to the Leigh River. The river meanders through a steep sided valley oriented approximately north-south, with the crop being sprayed located above the west ridge of the valley. The pilot advised that he had refuelled the aircraft and refilled the hopper.

The wind was gusting from the south-west and he was on a spray run, tracking to the south, at 5 ft above the ground, when a gust of wind caused the left wing to drop. The pilot advised that he was unable to stop the wing hitting an embankment and the aircraft rolled into the valley, coming to rest upright, substantially damaged and burning.

The pilot suffered a broken ankle and burns but was able to extricated himself. The aircraft was destroyed.

