

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199703320**

**Mooney Aircraft Corp
M20F**

11 October 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.

Occurrence Number: 199703320 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Parafield, Aerodrome
State: SA **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Saturday 11 October 1997
Time: 1427 hours **Time Zone** CST
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Mooney Aircraft Corp
Aircraft Model: M20F
Aircraft Registration: VH-SXF **Serial Number:** 22-1423
Type of Operation: Non-commercial Pleasure/Travel
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Coober Pedy SA
Departure Time: 1145 CST
Destination: Parafield SA

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on	
		Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Private	54.0	125

Approved for Release: Tuesday, December 2, 1997

The owner pilot was conducting a private flight from Coober Pedy to Parafield, to have a 50 hourly inspection conducted on his aircraft. He was accompanied on the flight by his wife and three children aged under nine.

The pilot was making an approach to land on runway 26 right at Parafield in strong gusty wind conditions. During the flare prior to touch down, the aircraft "ballooned". The pilot applied power to recover the situation, however, the right wing dropped. The pilot estimated the bank angle reached approximately 70 degrees. The pilot recovered the wing drop with rudder and aileron only to have the left wing descend quickly. Power was again applied to cushion the ground contact, however, the right wing tip touch the ground and dragged for approximately 90 m. The pilot attempted to recover the dropped wing, but the aircraft ground looped, departed the runway and came to rest in a drainage ditch north of the flight strip. The pilot and passengers evacuated the aircraft without injury.

