

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199703918**

**Cessna Aircraft Company
C-152**

01 December 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: 199703918 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Bendigo, Aerodrome
State: VIC **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Monday 01 December 1997
Time: 0900 hours **Time Zone** ESuT
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Cessna Aircraft Company
Aircraft Model: 152
Aircraft Registration: VH-CET **Serial Number:** 15280512
Type of Operation: Instructional Solo
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Woodvale Vic.
Departure Time: 0850 ESuT
Destination: Tyabb Vic.

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command		50.0	50

Approved for Release: Tuesday, December 16, 1997

Whilst cruising at 3,500ft over Bendigo city enroute to Melbourne, the engine commenced vibrating and rattling. The pilot, on his first solo navigation exercise, shut down the engine and made a forced landing onto Bendigo aerodrome. The aircraft touched down on an unprepared area causing the nose landing gear to collapse.

The aircraft was recovered and the engine sent to a maintenance organisation for teardown inspection. Other than one unservicable sparking plug , the engine was considered to be within all in-service tolerances, and was undamaged.

It is possible that the low time student pilot reacted to the vibration occasioned by the failed sparking plug and shut the engine down when in reality some significant power was available. The subsequent approach had the aircraft landing in an unmade area that overstressed and failed the nose landing gear support structure.

