

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199600423**

**Pitts Aviation Enterprises
S-1E**

10 February 1996

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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.

The Bureau did not conduct an on scene investigation of this occurrence. The information presented below was obtained from information supplied to the Bureau.

Occurrence Number:	199600423	Occurrence Type:	Accident
Location:	8km E Kingaroy, Aerodrome		
State:	QLD	Inv Category:	4
Date:	Saturday 10 February 1996		
Time:	1500 hours	Time Zone	EST
Highest Injury Level:	None		

Aircraft Manufacturer:	Pitts Aviation Enterprises		
Aircraft Model:	S-1E		
Aircraft Registration:	VH-JVP	Serial Number:	V26
Type of Operation:	Miscellaneous Ferry		
Damage to Aircraft:	Substantial		
Departure Point:	Watts Bridge QLD		
Departure Time:	1430 EST		
Destination:	Kingaroy QLD		

Approved for Release: Friday, August 9, 1996

The pilot had purchased the aircraft earlier in the day and was flying it home to Kingaroy. During the pre-flight inspection he noted that the fuel quantity indication in the sight gauge was 35 litres. This was assessed as adequate for the 20 minute flight, plus reserves.

About 8 km before the destination the pilot again checked the fuel quantity, which was reported to be 10 litres. This was assessed as adequate for the remainder of the flight. Shortly after, the engine failed and a forced landing was conducted. The paddock chosen appeared to be covered in smooth grass. During the landing roll a wheel struck a clump of the long grass and the aircraft nosed over, coming to rest inverted.

Examination of the aircraft found that less than three litres of fuel were in the aircraft when the engine failed. The pilot was not aware that the fuel sight gauge was accurate only in flight. There was no mention of this in the aircraft manual.

Factors:

1. The pilot had little experience on the aircraft type.
2. The engine failed due to fuel exhaustion.
3. A clump of grass caused the aircraft to nose over.