

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
199602391**

**Piper Aircraft Corp  
Pawnee**

**30 July 1996**

Readers are advised that the Australian Transport Safety Bureau investigates for the sole purpose of enhancing transport safety. Consequently, Bureau reports are confined to matters of safety significance and may be misleading if used for any other purposes.

Investigations commenced on or before 30 June 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the Executive Director of the Bureau in accordance with Part 2A of the Air Navigation Act 1920.

Investigations commenced after 1 July 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the Executive Director of the Bureau in accordance with the Transport Safety Investigation Act 2003 (TSI Act). Reports released under the TSI Act are not admissible as evidence in any civil or criminal proceedings.

**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).**

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:** 199602391      **Occurrence Type:** Accident  
**Location:** Forbes, (ALA)  
**State:** NSW      **Inv Category:** 4  
**Date:** Tuesday 30 July 1996  
**Time:** 1420 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-SCW      **Serial Number:** 25-3932  
**Type of Operation:** Commercial      Aerial Agriculture - Other  
**Damage to Aircraft:** Substantial  
**Departure Point:** Forbes NSW  
**Departure Time:**  
**Destination:** Forbes NSW

**Crew Details:**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Class of Licence</b>	<b>Hours on Type</b>	<b>Hours Total</b>
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial	539.0	687

**Approved for Release:** Thursday, October 10, 1996

The Piper Pawnee was spraying chemical in the local area. The strip being used was 350 m in length, and had several trees at the far end, some 16 m to the left of the departure path. There was a crosswind from the right of about 10 to 12 knots. The strip surface was soft, but the pilot reported he had not experienced any problems during a previous takeoff, although the aircraft was unladen.

Prior to the next takeoff the aircraft was loaded with chemical. The pilot subsequently reported that late in the takeoff run, with the engine operating normally, the aircraft suddenly slowed and slewed left about 20 degrees, before again accelerating normally. The aircraft lifted off at approximately 65 knots, displaced to the left and further along the strip than on the previous takeoff. The pilot reported he was unable to prevent the aircraft colliding with the trees located to the left of the normal departure path. This resulted in the aircraft rolling inverted and striking the ground. It is considered the left mainwheel may have struck a soft area of the strip during the takeoff run, causing the initial left yaw and slight deceleration.

