

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199603097**

**Piper Aircraft Corp
Cherokee Six**

22 September 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.

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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: 199603097 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Burrum Community
State: NT **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Sunday 22 September 1996
Time: 1345 hours **Time Zone** CST
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Piper Aircraft Corp
Aircraft Model: PA-32-300
Aircraft Registration: VH-MAR **Serial Number:** 32-40920
Type of Operation: Non-commercial Pleasure/Travel
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Gove NT
Departure Time:
Destination: Burrum Community NT

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial	900.0	1200

Approved for Release: Monday, September 30, 1996

The aircraft was on approach for landing with a 10 - 15 kt crosswind from the left. The pilot stated that he was holding the left wing down to counteract the crosswind, but as he commenced to flare prior to touchdown a stronger gust of wind moved the aircraft to the right.

The aircraft touched down at the side of the airstrip on its left main wheel, possibly in soft sand, while still moving sideways. This imposed a side load to the landing gear leg which sheared the attachment bolts allowing the leg to separate from the wing.