

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199603299**

**Mooney Aircraft Corp
Mooney**

14 October 1996

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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:	199603299	Occurrence Type:	Incident
Location:	15km S Cummins		
State:	SA	Inv Category:	4
Date:	Monday 14 October 1996		
Time:	1231 hours	Time Zone	CST
Highest Injury Level:	None		

Aircraft Manufacturer:	Mooney Aircraft Corp		
Aircraft Model:	M20J		
Aircraft Registration:	VH-ASO	Serial Number:	24-0858
Type of Operation:	Non-commercial Pleasure/Travel		
Damage to Aircraft:	Nil		
Departure Point:	Ceduna SA		
Departure Time:			
Destination:	Parafield SA		

Approved for Release: Wednesday, October 23, 1996

Prior to departure from Ceduna, the pilot refuelled both fuel tanks. This should equate to about two hours endurance per tank. Approximately 55 minutes after departure, while cruising at 7,000 ft, the engine suddenly lost power. The pilot established the best glide speed and performed trouble checks. Engine instruments were all in the green range. The fuller fuel tank was selected and the electric fuel pump switched on but except for an occasional surge, the engine would still not produce power.

The pilot informed Adelaide Flight Service of his situation and then concentrated on a forced landing approach to a wheat paddock, where the aircraft was landed without damage. After landing, the pilot ran the engine but it would still not produce significant power. Initial engineering investigation indicated a faulty fuel injection system.