Aviation Safety Investigation Report 199603747

Piper Aircraft Corp
Seneca

20 October 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.

Aviation Safety Investigation Report

199603747

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: 199603747 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Parafield, Aerodrome
State: SA **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Sunday 20 October 1996
Time: 1215 hours **Time Zone** CSuT
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Piper Aircraft Corp
Aircraft Model: PA-34-200
Aircraft Registration: VH-MCK **Serial Number:** 34-7350145
Type of Operation: Instructional Solo
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Parafield SA
Departure Time:
Destination: Parafield SA

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Private	5.0	300

Approved for Release: Tuesday, November 19, 1996

The pilot was conducting solo circuit training and had completed 8 normal landings with no problems. He reported that the weather conditions were fine with no noticable crosswind component on the runway in use.

He stated that the last approach was normal, but as he flared for landing the aircraft continued descending and touched down hard and bounced. He attempted to raise the nose to cushion the landing, but there was no response from his elevator inputs. The aircraft again contacted the ground heavily in a nose low attitude, shearing the nose landing gear attachment frame from the forward fuselage bulkhead, pushing it upwards and shattering the windscreen. Both propellers suffered ground strikes bending the blades.

The pilot may have reduced engine power too soon prior to the landing flare, resulting in a reduction of propeller slipstream over the tailplane, with a subsequent loss of some elevator authority.