

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199402112**

**Cessna Aircraft Company
180E**

04 August 1994

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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: 199402112 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Broome
State: WA **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Thursday 04 August 1994
Time: 1615 hours **Time Zone** WST
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Cessna Aircraft Company
Aircraft Model: 180E
Aircraft Registration: VH-PFT **Serial Number:** 18051144
Type of Operation: Miscellaneous Parachute Jump
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Broome WA
Departure Time: 1555 WST
Destination: Broome WA

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on	
		Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial	250.0	600

Approved for Release: Wednesday, October 5, 1994

The pilot had been operating the aircraft in the area for several weeks in support of parachuting operations. Towards the end of the day he requested to be refuelled, but the refueller was busy and could not immediately attend to the request. The pilot departed without refuelling and whilst turning onto finals at the conclusion of the sortie, the engine sputtered and stopped. In order to avoid undershooting and possibly landing in houses, the pilot elected to land in a clear area of mangrove. When the wheels sank into the soft surface, the aircraft overturned.

Minimal quantities of fuel were discovered in the aircraft and the fuel system after it was righted and the investigation did not discover any reason for the engine stoppage other than fuel exhaustion. The most likely explanation for the fuel exhaustion was the poor fuel management practices of the pilot.