

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199301651**

**Piper Aircraft Corp
Seneca**

09 June 1993

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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: 199301651 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 1km S Minlaton
State: SA **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Wednesday 09 June 1993
Time: 0633 hours **Time Zone** CST
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Piper Aircraft Corp
Aircraft Model: PA-34-200
Aircraft Registration: VH-CRT **Serial Number:** 34-7250097
Type of Operation: Charter Cargo
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Adelaide SA
Departure Time: 0600 CST
Destination: Minlaton SA

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Commercial	470.0	991

Approved for Release: Monday, March 28, 1994

On arrival overhead Minlaton, at the lowest safe altitude of 1600 feet above mean sea level, the pilot identified the town and airport. A visual descent to 500 feet above ground level was continued as the aircraft joined the circuit for runway 33. The pilot flew a tight circuit and after aligning the aircraft on final looked into the cockpit for a final check of the power settings. When he looked out he had lost sight of the runway lights and before he could take corrective action the aircraft struck the ground about 800 metres before the runway threshold.

The left outer wing struck the ground and then a fence and was broken off, the landing gear was torn off and the aircraft came to rest after a ground slide of about 75 metres. The pilot was uninjured and vacated the aircraft unaided.

A second aircraft which arrived overhead Minlaton a short time after VH-CRT, advised Adelaide of the accident. The pilot of this aircraft then held in the area for about 20 minutes because of poor visibility and light before a landing could be accomplished.