

1. LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE

Ballarto South, Victoria.	Height a.m.s.l. (ft) 2,500 feet	Date 7.6.69	Time (Local) 1045	Zone EST
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THE AIRCRAFT

Make and Model Piper PA-25/235 "Pawnee"	Registration VH-AGL	Certificate of Airworthiness	Valid from 14.9.65	Valid to 13.9.74
Registered Owner P. Tetley & R. Kilpatrick, Mt. Mercer P.M.B., Ballarat, Victoria.	Operator Avia Guard (Vic.), Ballarat Airport, Ballarat, Victoria.		Degree of damage to aircraft Destroyed	
			Other property damaged S.E.C. power lines	

Defects discovered

3. THE FLIGHT

Last or intended departure point Ballarat	Time of departure 1015	Next point of intended landing Ballarat	Purpose of flight Agricultural Spraying	Class of operation Aerial Work
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THE CREW

Name	Status	Age	Class of licence	Hours on type	Total hours	Degree of injury
Paul Anthony James TETLEY	Pilot	39	Commercial	1278 hours	4851 hours	Serious

5. OTHER PERSONS (All passengers and persons injured on ground)

Name	Status	Degree of injury	Name	Status	Degree of injury

6. CONTRAVENTIONS OF REGULATIONS AND ORDERS


Regulation or Order No.	Nature of contravention

RELEVANT EVENTS

The aircraft took off from Ballarat and arrived in the spraying area fifteen to twenty minutes later. The pilot was familiar with the field, having sprayed it the previous day, and he commenced spraying on this occasion with an east to west run on the southern side of a main power line which crosses the field. He made his second run in the opposite direction, still on the southern side of the main power line, and then proceeded to spray a four acre paddock a short distance away. On returning to the first field he made a spray run from east to west on the northern side of the main power line. During this run he looked back to check the drift of the spray and the aircraft struck a three wire spur power line running north from the main power line approximately half way along the run. The flight of the aircraft was arrested and it struck the ground nose first and then fell to the inverted position. A fire broke out and the pilot was assisted from the burning wreckage by two farmers.

8. OPINION AS TO CAUSE

The cause of the accident was that the pilot did not exercise the amount of care demanded while flying in the vicinity of power lines.

Report approved  (D.S. GRAHAM)	Designation Assistant Director-General (Air Safety Investigation)	Date 28.11.69
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DEFINITIONS

ACCIDENT - An occurrence associated with the operation of an aircraft which takes place between the time any person boards the aircraft with the intention of flight until such time as all those persons have disembarked and in which

- (a) any person suffers death or serious injury as a result of being in or upon the aircraft or by direct contact with the aircraft or anything attached to the aircraft; or
- (b) the aircraft suffers substantial damage.

FATAL INJURY - Any injury which results in death within 30 days.

SERIOUS INJURY - Any injury other than a fatal injury which

- (a) requires hospitalisation for more than 48 hours, commencing within seven days from the date the injury was received; or
- (b) results in a fracture of any bone (except simple fractures of fingers, toes or nose); or
- (c) involves lacerations which cause severe haemorrhages, nerve, muscle or tendon damage; or
- (d) involves injury to any internal organ; or
- (e) involves second or third degree burns, or any burns affecting more than five percent of the body surface.

MINOR INJURY - Any injury other than as defined under "Fatal Injury" or "Serious Injury".

DESTROYED - Consumed by fire, demolished or damaged beyond repair.

SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE - Damage or structural failure which adversely affects the structural strength, performance or flight characteristics of the aircraft and which would normally require major repair or replacement of the affected component. The following types of damage are specifically excluded: engine failure, damage limited to an engine, bent fairings or cowling, dented skin, small punctured holes in the skin or fabric, taxi-ing damage to propeller blades, damage to tyres, engine accessories, brakes, or wingtips.

MINOR DAMAGE - Damage other than as defined under "Destroyed" or "Substantial Damage".