



Ref: 7367

**SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY****ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

<b>Date of Accident</b>	25 June 2001	<b>Time of Accident</b>	±0645Z		
<b>Aircraft Registration</b>	ZS-MMP	<b>Type of Aircraft</b>	Piper PA-32R-301T		
<b>Pilot-in-command Licence Type</b>	Private Pilot		<b>Licence Valid</b>	Yes	
<b>Pilot-in-command Flying Experience</b>	Total Flying Hours	516.3	Total Hours on Type	22.9	
<b>Type of Operation</b>	Private				
<b>Last point of departure</b>	Wonderboom Airport				
<b>Next point of intended landing</b>	Paradise Beach near Jeffrey's Bay				
<b>Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (plus GPS readings if possible)</b>					
In the Winburg area at a position: S28°40.020' E027°01.098'					
<b>Meteorological Information</b>	Low cloud and rain in the area.				
<b>Number of people on board</b>	1 + 2	<b>No. of people injured</b>	Nil	<b>No. of people killed</b>	1 + 2
<b>Synopsis</b>	<p>The aircraft was on a flight from Wonderboom Aerodrome to Paradise Beach. During the flight over the Free State province, the non-instrument rated pilot reported that he had encountered poor weather conditions and another aircraft flying at Flight Level (FL) 055 in the same area turned back to Kroonstad near Thaba Nchu due to inclement weather conditions. He initially flew at FL085, but after being cleared he climbed to FL105.</p> <p>The aircraft was observed on radar at FL105 to FL107 and then down to FL098 when it turned from a Southerly direction back to a Northerly direction at a high rate of turn. After the turn the aircraft disappeared from the radar screen.</p> <p>An eyewitness on the ground reported low cloud conditions with rain. He heard the aircraft engine emitting a sound that could be associated with either a spiral dive or a spin. He saw the aircraft fall from the sky and collide with the ground in an uncontrolled manner. The aircraft broke up in the air prior to colliding with the ground and further damage was caused to the cockpit/cabin area by the post-impact fire.</p> <p>The weather services reported the freezing level to be at level 095 in the area with cloudy conditions.</p>				
<b>Probable Cause</b>					
<p>The non-instrument rated pilot flew the aircraft into meteorological conditions associated with cloud and ice. In these meteorological conditions, the pilot lost control of the aircraft most probably due to the build up of ice on the wings. This resulted in the aircraft exceeding its Never Exceed Speed (<math>V_{ne}</math>). The aircraft was unable to withstand the forces imposed on it and broke up in the air causing the aircraft to impact the ground in an uncontrolled condition.</p>					