



Ref: 7430

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

Aircraft Registration	ZS-JGB	Date of Accident	13 November 2001	Time of Accident	0500Z
Type of Aircraft	PIPER PA25-235		Type of Operation	Agricultural	
Pilot-in-command Licence Type	Commercial	Age	48	Licence Valid	Valid licence but no agricultural rating
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience	Total Flying Hours	2530		Hours on Type	73
Last point of departure	Bateleur, Farm in Douglas district, Northern Cape				
Next point of intended landing	Bateleur, Farm in Douglas district, Northern Cape				

Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (GPS readings if possible)

Farm Bateleur, Douglas district in Northern Cape

Meteorological Information	CAVOK				
Number of people on board	1	No. of people injured	1	No. of people killed	Nil

Synopsis

The pilot (owner) had completed a crop spraying detail and had just landed when a sudden gust of wind lifted the left wing, which caused the aircraft to depart the side of the runway. The undercarriage went through a ditch, which caused the aircraft to overturn.

Damage was caused to the propeller, cockpit, wings and tail-fin. The pilot sustained injuries to his head and neck and was hospitalized for two weeks.

The pilot stated that calm wind conditions existed at the time of the accident but that a thunderstorm was developing in the vicinity and that he had encountered sudden gusts. The tail was almost on the ground, following a “wheeler landing” and he was losing rudder authority when the gust lifted the left-hand wing. He got the wings level again but could not prevent the aircraft from departing the side of the dirt runway and going through a ditch, which subsequently caused the aircraft to overturn.

It is interesting to note that the pilot was wearing a safety helmet when the accident occurred. Had he not been wearing his helmet it is possible that his head and neck injuries might have been much more serious. Pilots engaged in crop-spraying should therefore be encouraged to wear protective head gear.

Probable Cause

A sudden gust of wind lifted the left-hand wing of the aircraft during landing, which caused the aircraft to veer off the side of the runway. The landing gear went through a ditch next to the runway that caused the aircraft to overturn.