



Ref: 7725

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

Aircraft Registration	ZS-NWO	Date of Accident	15 November 2003	Time of Accident	0945Z
Type of Aircraft	PIPER PA23-250		Type of Operation	Private	
Pilot-in-command Licence Type	Commercial	Age	62	Licence Valid	Yes
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience	Total Flying Hours	1640.6	Hours on Type	28.65	
Last point of departure	Wonderboom Aerodrome (FAWB)				
Next point of intended landing	Wonderboom Aerodrome (FAWB)				
Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (GPS readings if possible)					
Runway 29 at Wonderboom Aerodrome					
Meteorological Information	The surface wind was 110/5kt, Temperature 30°C				
Number of people on board	1+1	No. of people injured	0	No. of people killed	0
Synopsis	<p>The pilot stated that he took off from Wonderboom Aerodrome on private flight after an MPI (mandatory period inspection) was carried out on the aircraft that had not been operated for eight months.</p> <p>The pilot advised the ATC at Wonderboom to “lookout “ for him as he had not flown for six months. After completion of stall and turn manoeuvres in the general flying area, the pilot returned back to Wonderboom Aerodrome.</p> <p>According to the pilot, he selected the landing gear down prior to landing on runway 29, but inattentively failed to observe the landing gear down and lock lights.</p> <p>On flaring the aircraft for landing, the unsafe warning horn sounded but it was too late for a go-around and the aircraft landed on its belly and skidded for approximately 400 metres on the runway before it came to rest.</p> <p>The occupants sustained no injuries but the propeller flaps and ADF antenna were subsequently damaged during the mishap.</p> <p>The pilot was the holder of a valid Commercial Pilot’s license and the aircraft type endorsed on his licence which was valid until 20 November 2003.</p> <p>The last MPI was certified on 31 October 2003 at a total of 10207.7 airframe hours. The aircraft had flown a further 0.8 hours since the MPI was certified.</p>				
Probable Cause					
The pilot failed to do a proper pre-landing check and thus neglected to lower the landing gear properly prior to landing					