



Ref: 7895

SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Aircraft Registration	ZS-DXM	Date of Accident	20 December 2004	Time of Accident	0907Z
Type of Aircraft	PIPER PA28-235		Type of Operation	Private	
Pilot-in-command License Type	Private	Age	71	License Valid	Yes
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience	Total Flying Hrs	1 650.0		Hours on Type	1 490.0
Last point of departure	Wonderboom Aerodrome (FAWB)				
Next point of intended landing	Freeway Aerodrome				
Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (GPS readings if possible)					
Freeway Aerodrome					
Meteorological Information	Fine: Wind – 200/5kts, Temperature 24°C, Overcast cloud base 6 500ft				
Number of people on board	1 + 0	No. of people injured	0	No. of people killed	0
Synopsis	<p>The pilot, who was the sole occupant of the aircraft departed Wonderboom aerodrome at 0807Z on a local pleasure flight. During the flight the pilot decided to fly a few touch-and-go landings on a privately owned aerodrome known as Freeway, located to the North of Wonderboom aerodrome.</p> <p>The pilot over-flew the aerodrome, complying with the unmanned aerodrome approach procedure and assessing the surface wind conditions. Runway 02 was elected for landing. According to the pilot he misjudged his height prior to touch down and a hard landing followed, which caused the aircraft to bounce. On the third bounce, the nose wheel assembly separated from the aircraft. The aircraft skidded for some distance before it came to a halt on the runway. The pilot was not injured in the event.</p> <p>The last Mandatory Periodic Inspection (MPI) prior to the accident was certified on 16 February 2004, at 4 783.35 airframe hours. Since the MPI inspection was certified a further 65.0 hours were flown.</p>				
Probable Cause					
<p>The pilot misjudged his height prior to touch down resulting in a hard landing. Following the hard landing, he allowed the aircraft to bounce instead of taking corrective action by applying full power and initiating a go-around.</p>					