

**ACCIDENT**

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|--|--|-------------------|
| <b>Aircraft Type and Registration:</b> | Piper PA-38-112 Tomahawk, G-BSOT   |                   |
| <b>No &amp; Type of Engines:</b>       | 1 Lycoming O-235-L2C piston engine   |                   |
| <b>Year of Manufacture:</b>            | 1981   |                   |
| <b>Date &amp; Time (UTC):</b>          | 25 February 2012 at 1300 hrs   |                   |
| <b>Location:</b>                       | West of Swansea Airport  |                   |
| <b>Type of Flight:</b>                 | Training   |                   |
| <b>Persons on Board:</b>               | Crew - 2   | Passengers - None |
| <b>Injuries:</b>                       | Crew - None  | Passengers - N/A  |
| <b>Nature of Damage:</b>               | Fuselage and rudder damaged  |                   |
| <b>Commander's Licence:</b>            | Commercial Pilot's Licence   |                   |
| <b>Commander's Age:</b>                | 59 years   |                   |
| <b>Commander's Flying Experience:</b>  | 8,630 hours (of which 4,000 were on type)<br>Last 90 days - 118 hours<br>Last 28 days - 33 hours |                   |
| <b>Information Source:</b>             | Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot   |                   |

At approximately 400 ft agl, after taking off from Swansea Airport on a training flight, the instructor heard a loud bang followed by severe airframe vibration and a significant reduction in engine power. He elected to make an immediate forced landing in a field. The aircraft touched down without incident, but the instructor was

unable to stop the aircraft before it hit the boundary hedge. Both the instructor and student were uninjured and able to evacuate the aircraft unaided. Examination of the engine identified that a spark plug had failed and released from one of the cylinder heads.