

Aircraft type and registration: Piper PA 25 Pawnee G-BFEY (Light single engine fixed wing aircraft)

Year of Manufacture: 1977

Date and time (GMT): 19 June 1984 at 1320 hrs.

Location: Chetwynd Aerodrome, Shropshire

Type of flight: Aerial application

Persons on board: Crew — 1          Passengers — Nil

Injuries: Crew — Nil          Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Aircraft's rudder horn balance broken off. Two high tension cables snapped.

Commander's Licence: Commercial Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 28 years

Commander's total flying experience: 2450 hours (of which 1300 hours were on type)

Information Source: Accident Report Pro-forma completed by the Pilot

The pilot was tasked with crop spraying a field across which ran two sets of 33kV high tension cables. Having decided upon the method of operation, the pilot made 3 or 4 successful runs flying underneath the two sets of cables. On the next run he flew under the first set but only caught sight of the second set when it was at windshield level. The high tension cables glanced off the top of the screen, along the guide wire running to the tail, and broke off the horn balance of the rudder. This caused the rudder to jam and the pilot, having made a distress call to RAF Shawbury, landed safely at Chetwynd grass aerodrome.