

Piper J3C-65, G-AJAO, 24 February 1999 at 1239 hrs

AAIB Bulletin No: 4/99 Ref: EW/G99/02/14 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper J3C-65, G-AJAO
No & Type of Engines: 1 Continental A65-8F piston engine
Year of Manufacture: 1943
Date & Time (UTC): 24 February 1999 at 1239 hrs
Location: Brunton Airfield, Northumberland
Type of Flight: Private
Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - None
Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage: Minor to landing gear
Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age: 65 years
Commander's Flying Experience: 310 hours (of which 100 were on type)
Last 90 days - 11 hours
Last 28 days - 3 hours
Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

Prior to departure for a flight to a farm strip, the pilot forgot to load the aircraft's wheel chocks. At the farm strip, the aircraft was parked on a tarmac area and when the pilot started the engine by hand swinging the propeller, the aircraft moved forward. The pilot attempted to reach the cockpit to switch off the magnetos but tripped and fell. The aircraft continued to move across the strip until it was brought to a halt on contacting a fence where it sustained minor damage.

The pilot considered that the cause of the incident was his decision to start the engine while the aircraft was parked on a hard surface with the wheels unchocked.