

Piper PA-38-112, G-SION

AAIB Bulletin No: 11/97 Ref: EW/G97/07/03 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Piper PA-38-112, G-SION
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-235-L2C piston engine
Year of Manufacture:	1981
Date & Time (UTC):	2 July 1997 at 1830 hrs
Location:	Enstone Airfield, Oxon
Type of Flight:	Airtest
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 - Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None - Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Engine mount, nose wheel support and leading edge of left wing damaged
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age:	40 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	551 hours (of which 18 were on type) Last 90 days - 23 hours Last 28 days - 7 hours
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was being flown on a C of A test flight following work which contained very little engine content and was primarily to comply with airframe Airworthiness Directives. A five minute performance climb from the airfield had been completed satisfactorily, and a descent was made during which the aircraft had been taken to Vne; stalls had been performed and maximum speed level flight was achieved. A full stop landing was made followed by a take off during which the engine lost power at 250 feet above the upwind end of the runway with insufficient room to stop. The decision to land ahead on a freshly cut hay field was taken, however, the grass was wet and the aircraft failed to stop before it hit a fence.

The engine had not suffered an obvious failure and had good compression with fuel present in the fuel lines and carburettor. During the previous descent carburettor heat had been selected, causing

the engine to run rich. Carburettor heat had not been used after that. Air temperature was +15_C and the humidity was reported as being very high.

The aircraft is under repair and if any engine defects are discovered they will be reported in a subsequent issue of the AAIB Bulletin.