

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-20-135 Pacer, G-BFAO

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-290-D2 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1952

Date & Time (UTC): 1 January 1995 at 1530 hrs

Location: Ellens Green, near Dunsfold, Surrey

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Substantial to main landing gear, left wing and propeller

Commander's Licence: Basic Commercial Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 50 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 900 hours (of which 297 were on type)
Last 90 days - 8 hours
Last 28 days - 3 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was flying from Popham to a farm strip near Dunsfold. The pilot had obtained a meteorological forecast which indicated that the weather would be generally fine but included a strong wind warning and the possibility of occasional snow showers. Approaching Dunsfold Airfield, which was closed, the pilot encountered rapidly deteriorating visibility due to the presence of a heavy snow shower on his intended track. As Dunsfold was still in the clear, the pilot decided to make a precautionary landing on Runway 25. However, the surface wind was from the north west at about 30/35 kt and the aircraft sustained substantial damage during the landing which was made outside the demonstrated crosswind limit for the aircraft.