No: 3/91   Ref: EW/G90/11/12   Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Piper PA-28-140, G-AWBG
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-320-E2A piston engine
Year of Manufacture:	1968
Date and Time (UTC):	3 November 1990 at 1310 hrs
Location:	Hayle Sands, near St Ives, Cornwall
Type of Flight:	Private
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - Minor Passengers - Minor
Nature of Damage:	Beyond economic repair
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age:	47 years
Commander's Total Flying Experience:	275 hours (of which 61 were on type)
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot reports that his day's flying started from Bodmin aerodrome at 1005 hrs, and he flew from there to St Just in fine but cold weather. At St Just he carried out a 45 minute flight to demonstrate the aircraft to a prospective co-owner. Both these flights were reported to be without event.

At 1300 hrs he took off from St Just for a return flight to Bodmin, and contacted St Mawgan ATC requesting a Flight Information Service for a transit at 2000 feet. As he was climbing through 1500 feet he noticed that his airspeed was reducing and that the propeller had reduced to 1700 rpm. He checked all fuel indications, which were normal, and then selected warm air to the carburettor. However, this appeared to worsen the problem and he reports 'popping' of the exhaust and fluctuating rpm.

He advised St Mawgan ATC of loss of power and that he intended to carry out a precautionary landing on Hayle Sands. Due to the presence of people on the sands he landed the aircraft in shallow water where it rapidly decelerated, the nose landing gear dug into the soft sand, and it pitched forward onto its nose. Both occupants vacated the aircraft without injury. It was not possible to move the aircraft which was subsequently immersed by the incoming tide.

A carburettor icing probability chart shows that the weather conditions at the time were conducive to the onset of moderate carburettor icing at any power.