

Follow-up Action on Occurrence Report

ACCIDENT TO CESSNA T310R, N-6834L, NEAR COLNE, LANCASHIRE ON 30 MARCH 2004
(AIRCRAFT CRASHED AFTER ATTEMPTED RETURN TO AIRPORT OF DEPARTURE)

CAA FACTOR NUMBER : F29/2005
FACTOR PUBLICATION DATE : 09 September 2005
OPERATOR : Private
CAA OCCURRENCE NUMBER : 2004/01924
AAIB REPORT : Bulletin 8/2005

SYNOPSIS

(From AAIB Report)

Fire in the aircraft's nose baggage compartment, which started in the vicinity of the cabin heater, caused the smell of smoke in the cockpit. This prompted the pilot to request a return to Leeds Bradford Airport six and a half minutes after he had taken off for a flight to Connaught (Knock) in Ireland. The aircraft successfully negotiated a level turn to the left at 3,400 feet onto a south-easterly heading but then started a rapid descent and a steep turn or series of turns where radio and radar contact was lost. This may have been the result of controlled flight or uncontrolled manoeuvres. The aircraft was seen to be flying slowly and 'not in trouble' a matter of seconds before it struck the ground. The aircraft crashed in a field at an elevation of 950 feet above mean sea level (amsl) approximately 0.5 nm to the south-south-east of the last radar return and within two minutes of loss of contact. Ground impact marks were consistent with an uncontrolled impact yet the positions of some of the controls suggested that the pilot may have been trying to make a forced landing, albeit with a tailwind, into a sloping field which may have appeared level from the air. Post mortem examination of the pilot concluded that there was no evidence of cabin air contamination which could have had an incapacitating effect and that he died as the result of multiple injuries sustained at the time of impact. One Safety Recommendation is made to the FAA concerning the inspection of combustion heaters.

FOLLOW UP ACTION

The one Safety Recommendation, made by the AAIB following their investigation, is reproduced below, together with the CAA's response.

Recommendation 2005-66

It is recommended that the FAA introduce inspection and maintenance requirements for combustion heaters in Part 23 aircraft to ensure that adequate detailed inspections are carried out at specified calendar intervals.

CAA Response

This Recommendation is not addressed to the CAA.

CAA Status - Closed