



J10/2/7075

A99-084

**SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY****ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

<b>Date of Accident</b>	17 July 1999	<b>Time of Accident</b>	1300Z		
<b>Aircraft Registration</b>	<b>ZS-LDI</b>	<b>Type of Aircraft</b>	<b>Ayres S-2R - T34</b>		
<b>Pilot-in-command Licence Type</b>	SA Validation		<b>Licence Valid</b>	Validation Valid	
<b>Pilot-in-command Flying Experience</b>	Total Flying Hours	10 138.0	Total Hours on Type	2930.0	
<b>Type of Operation</b>	Commercial (Fire Bombing)				
<b>Last point of departure</b>	Pietermaritzburg Aerodrome				
<b>Next point of intended landing</b>	Epsom Airstrip near Bulwer				
<b>Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (plus GPS readings if possible)</b>					
Epsom airstrip near Bulwer					
<b>Meteorological Information</b>	Fine, Wind 15 kt				
<b>Number of people on board</b>	One	<b>No. of people injured</b>	Nil	<b>No. of people killed</b>	Nil
<b>Synopsis</b>	<p>The aircraft was engaged in a fire bombing exercise in the Bulwer area. On touchdown for landing at the Epsom plantation grass runway, the pilot encountered a strong gust of wind from the port side (left-hand). The aircraft veered off the runway to the right down a steep embankment, the starboard main landing gear wheel fell into a hole, which caused the nose section to dig in. The engine was idling at the time. The starboard wing struck the ground when the starboard main landing gear wheel dug in. The pilot was uninjured in the accident.</p>				
<b>Probable Cause</b>					
<p>The pilot admitted that he used the wrong technique during the landing by misjudging the slope of the runway and the gusty wind conditions.</p>					