



A00-048-7190

SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Accident	27 April 2000	Time of Accident	14:15 Z		
Aircraft Registration	ZS-MFO	Type of Aircraft	Bellanca 8KCAB		
Pilot-in-command Licence Type	Private		Licence Valid	Yes	
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience	Total Flying Hours	253.8	Total Hours on Type	83.2	
Type of Operation	Private				
Last point of departure	Klerksdorp				
Next point of intended landing	Klerksdorp				
Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (plus GPS readings if possible)					
Vaal river near Orkney.					
Meteorological Information	CAVOK				
Number of people on board	1+1	No. of people injured	Nil	No. of people killed	Nil
Synopsis	<p>On 27 April 2000 at approximately 13:45 Z, the private pilot aged 33 years, departed Klerksdorp aerodrome (FAKD) for a private local flight. He was accompanied by one passenger and intended flying down the course of the Vaal river towards an area where he would have performed aerobatics.</p> <p>He took off on runway 18 and flew South towards the Vaal river near Orkney. The pilot flew along the course of the river and did not notice three 11 kV electrical conductors spanning the river at a height of approximately 30 m above the water.</p> <p>The aircraft collided with and severed the electrical conductors and plunged into the river approximately 250m further down-stream. The accident occurred at approximately 14:15 Z and the aircraft was flying in a Westerly direction.</p> <p>The river was not very deep at that point and the aircraft came to rest on it's nose in an inverted attitude. Although the aircraft was extensively damaged in the collision, neither of the two occupants sustained any serious injuries.</p>				
Probable Cause					
<p>The pilot conducted a low-level flight below 500 feet without familiarising himself with the terrain and location of possible hazards.</p>					