



Ref: 7303

# SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

## ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Accident	23/01/2001	Time of Accident	0932Z	
Aircraft Registration	<b>ZS-MDG</b>	Type of Aircraft	<b>Pitts S-2B</b>	
Pilot-in-command Licence Type	Airline Transport Pilot		Licence Valid	Yes
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience	Total Flying Hours	6 971.35	Total Hours on Type	273.10
Type of Operation	Private			
Last point of departure	Rand Airport			
Next point of intended landing	Syferfontein Aerodrome			

**Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (plus GPS readings if possible)**

Syferfontein Aerodrome

Meteorological Information	Fine				
Number of people on board	1 + 1	No. of people injured	2	No. of people killed	None
Synopsis					

The aircraft occupied by two pilots departed from Rand Airport for a private flight, which included aerobatics overhead Syferfontein Aerodrome.

According to an eyewitness, the aircraft was in a left-hand spin from which it recovered. He then noticed that the propeller was stationary and the engine was silent. At that stage the aircraft was not too high above the ground and flying in an easterly direction.

It executed a left turn (north) and continued with the turn until it was flying in a southerly direction. It was descending rapidly and the pilot attempted a forced landing, 90° to Runway 13/31.

The aircraft impacted the ground  $\pm$  4m in front of the runway with a slight nose-up attitude. The aircraft bounced and impacted the tarmac with a slight right wing low attitude, it then swung right and came to halt.

Both occupants were seriously injured in the accident.

**Probable Cause**

The pilot attempted a forced landing after the aircraft was recovered from a spin manoeuvre and subsequent engine failure at a relative low altitude. The aircraft impacted the ground at a considerable rate of decent with a slight nose-up attitude.

The engine failure could be attributed to a torn fuel distributor diaphragm, which caused fuel to leak from the pressure hole in the top cover of the unit with no fuel being distributed to the cylinders (fuel starvation).