

SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY
ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Accident	28 March 2001	Time of Accident	0345Z		
Aircraft Registration	ZS-TOM	Type of Aircraft	NAVION		
Pilot-in-command Licence Type	Private		Licence Valid	Yes	
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience	Total Flying Hours	1286:35	Total Hours on Type	430:10	
Type of Operation	Private				
Last point of departure	Springbok Aerodrome				
Next point of intended landing	Springs Aerodrome				

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

About 1 nm North-East (215°) of the Springbok Aerodrome at a position S29°40,366' E017°56.587'.

Meteorological Information	Fine				
Number of people on board	1	No. of people injured	Nil	No. of people killed	1

Synopsis

The aircraft took-off from Springbok Aerodrome to Springs Aerodrome early in the morning under typical night conditions when the Eastern sky just started lighting up.

The aircraft entered a tight left-hand turn after take-off and impacted the mountain initially with its right-hand wing and rolled over to impact the top surface of the mountain in an inverted attitude.

The pilot was fatally injured during the impact.

No defects were detected with the aircraft or its systems.

Although the pilot was night rated he had not flown in night conditions in the last 23 months.

Probable Cause

The pilot suffered from spatial disorientation during the take-off in the night/very early morning light conditions and lost control of the aircraft.