



Ref: 7404

SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Aircraft Registration	ZS-EVK	Date of Accident	18-09-2001	Time of Accident	0630Z
Type of Aircraft	CESSNA310	Type of Operation	Private		
Pilot-in-command Licence Type	Airline Transport	Age	46 years	Licence Valid	Yes
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience	Total Flying Hours	11639.30 Hrs	Hours on Type	612.15 Hrs	
Last point of departure	Grand Central Airport				
Next point of intended landing	Ellisras				

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

Grand Central Airport

Meteorological Information	The weather was fine and the wind calm				
Number of people on board	1 + 1	No. of people injured	Nil	No. of people killed	Nil

Synopsis

The pilot and a passenger departed from Grand Central Airport. However, shortly after the pilot selected the undercarriage to the up position, he heard a loud bang. He then attempted to lower the undercarriage with the normal and manual extension system but the nose undercarriage failed to extend properly and did not lock down.

The tower visually confirmed that the nose undercarriage was not fully extended during a fly past.

The nose undercarriage collapsed during the landing roll.

Metallurgical tests showed that the bell-crank from the undercarriage retraction system fractured as the result of a single overload condition. No signs of any fatigue or of a pre-existing defect, which could have initiated the fracture were noted.

Probable Cause

It appears that the nose undercarriage idler bell-crank fractured after take-off due to the fact that the nose undercarriage was previously subjected to an abnormal landing and/or with the nose undercarriage not fully in the down and locked position.