



SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Aircraft Registration	ZS-RHA	Date of Accident	8/1/2003	Time of Accident	1200Z
Type of Aircraft	AS 350-B2		Type of Operation	Commercial	
Pilot-in-command License Type	Commercial	Age	33	License Valid	Yes
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience	Total Flying Hours	2 088.0		Hours on Type	909.0
Last point of departure	Quarzazate (Morocco)				
Next point of intended landing	Quarzazate (Morocco)				
Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (GPS readings if possible)					
Quarzazate (Morocco)					
Meteorological Information	Fine: Wind - 330°/15kt, Temperature + 12°C				
Number of people on board	1 + 4	No. of people injured	1 + 4	No. of people killed	None
Synopsis	<p>The pilot, accompanied by four passengers was engaged in a geographical survey flight, collecting soil samples. While flying en route to the work site, an engine chip warning light illuminated on the warning panel and a landing was carried out to inspect the magnetic plug. A very small particle was noted, which was removed and the system tested fine. They then proceeded with their daily task. While flying in mountainous terrain they encountered strong wind conditions, but the pilot decided to continue with the sampling as it was the last day of the contract.</p> <p>While flying over a hill they heard a loud bang, which activated several warning lights as well as the low rotor rpm audio. The pilot had very little time to assess the situation, and identified a landing area surrounded by rocks and attempted an emergency landing. He did not recall what happened after impact. He was dragged from the wreckage which caught alight on impact by one of the passengers that sustained minor injuries. They had a satellite phone with them, which was still in working order and requested assistance accordingly.</p> <p>Investigators from Morocco (DAC) were dispatched to the scene, but could not retrieve any evidence/documents to continue with an investigation.</p>				
Probable Cause					
Undetermined.					