



Ref: 7622

SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY**ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Aircraft Registration	ZU-JON	Date of Accident	25 January 2003	Time of Accident	1616Z
Type of Aircraft	TITAN TORNADO 912		Type of Operation	Private	
Pilot-in-command Licence Type	Micro-light	Age	56	Licence Valid	Yes
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience	Total Flying Hours	289.9	Hours on Type	73.1	
Last point of departure	Heidelberg Aerodrome				
Next point of intended landing	Solitude Aerodrome				
Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (GPS readings if possible)					
500m to the East of the threshold of Runway 30 (Solitude Aerodrome) (GPS: 26° 21.244 South 027° 58.664 East)					
Meteorological Information	Thunderstorm in close proximity to aerodrome, Wind – Southerly/25-35kts				
Number of people on board	1 + 1	No. of people injured	Nil	No. of people killed	1 + 1

Synopsis

The pilot, accompanied by his 10 year old daughter, departed Solitude aerodrome at approximately 1430Z on a pleasure flight that took them to the Vaaldam and from there to Heidelberg where they executed a full stop landing.

En route to the Vaaldam they met up with another aircraft and the two continued to fly together. Both aircraft departed Heidelberg, where after the other aircraft returned to its home base (private aerodrome near Henley on Klip) and the accident aircraft returned to Solitude.

The aircraft arrived overhead Solitude aerodrome with an approaching thunderstorm in close proximity to the aerodrome, which was closing in from the South. The pilot attempted to land on Runway 30 but due to a strong crosswind component, he was unable to carry out a successful landing and initiated an overshoot. He attempted a second landing on Runway 20 but also did not succeed and initiated a go-around and then attempted a third landing on Runway 30. While executing a tight left turn for positioning the aircraft for a second attempted landing on Runway 30, he lost control of the aircraft and collided with terrain approximately 500m to the East of the threshold of Runway 30. Both occupants suffered fatal injuries, and the aircraft was destroyed.

Probable Cause

The pilot stalled the aircraft whilst executing a tight left turn in strong wind conditions in an attempt to position the aircraft for a second attempted landing on Runway 30, resulting in a loss of control with insufficient height available to recover.

The accident occurred during the pilot's third attempted landing in strong gusty wind conditions. The failure by the pilot to acknowledge the warning signs (including exceeding the aircraft limitations and his own capabilities) and divert to a more suitable aerodrome should be regarded as a significant contributory factor to this accident.