



J10/2/7261 A00-118

# SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

## ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<b>Date of Accident</b>	31 October 2000	<b>Time of Accident</b>	0900Z	
<b>Aircraft Registration</b>	<b>ZS-EXR</b>	<b>Type of Aircraft</b>	<b>PA28-140</b>	
<b>Pilot-in-command Licence Type</b>	Student pilot		<b>Licence Valid</b>	Yes
<b>Pilot-in-command Flying Experience</b>	Total Flying Hours	44,8	Total Hours on Type	44,8
<b>Type of Operation</b>	Training (Consolidating in preparation for initial PPL Test)			
<b>Last point of departure</b>	Tempe Airport			
<b>Next point of intended landing</b>	Tempe Airport			

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

S28° 46,473' E025° 56,798' @ 5133 ± 402' MSL

<b>Meteorological Information</b>	Fine weather conditions with little or no wind				
<b>Number of people on board</b>	1+0	<b>No. of people injured</b>	0	<b>No. of people killed</b>	0

**Synopsis**

The student pilot was on a SOLO training flight in the FABL general flying area, when she observed smoke in the cockpit, smelling like burning plastic.

She then decided to carry out a precautionary landing in a ploughed field, directly ahead of the aircraft.

Shortly after touch-down the aircraft overturned, sustaining substantial damage to the nose landing gear, nose section, rudder, vertical stabiliser and minor damage to the right-hand wing tip.

During the on-site investigation it was ascertained that all engine- and flight controls were serviceable prior to the accident.

It was also ascertained that the circuit breaker (5 Amp) for the "Turn Co-ordinator" was tripped. The circuit breaker was then reset but tripped again as soon as the master switch was switched on. No signs of overheating in the electrical wiring of the aircraft were observed during the on-site investigation.

**Probable Cause**

It would appear that the electrical "Turn-Co-ordinator's Circuit breaker" caused the smoke in the cockpit as a result of an internal electrical short circuit.

The pilot was unfamiliar with "Emergency Drill Procedures" as the incorrect procedures were followed after she observed smoke in the cockpit.