

No: 6/85

Ref: EW/G85/05/03

Aircraft type and registration: Cessna 150L G-BLPH (light single engined fixed wing aircraft)

Year of Manufacture: 1974

Date and time (GMT): 6 May 1985 at 1323 hrs

Location: Shoreham Airport

Type of flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — None

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — None

Nature of damage: Nose undercarriage collapsed, damage to firewall, engine mountings, cowling and propeller

Commander's Licence: Student

Commander's Age: 42 years

Commander's total flying experience: 52 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by pilot.

The aircraft was being flown by a student pilot for his qualifying cross-country certificate, from Lashenden to Goodwood. The landing at Goodwood was very heavy and the aircraft bounced. The pilot initiated a go-around and observers on the ground at Goodwood reported that the nose undercarriage appeared to be damaged. They suggested that the pilot return to his home base at Shoreham. This was accepted by him and during the flight back to Shoreham, the pilot of an accompanying aircraft advised that fuel could be seen leaking from the area of the damaged nose undercarriage mountings.

The pilot arrived at Shoreham but on the downwind leg for Runway 31 the engine lost power, apparently due to fuel starvation, and he elected to land on Runway 25 instead. The aircraft touched down at the extreme end of Runway 25, the noseleg collapsed and the aircraft came to rest in the overrun area. The pilot evacuated the aircraft without injury.

Subsequent inspection indicated that the heavy landing at Goodwood had bent the nosewheel back and distorted the firewall sufficiently to partially fracture the pipe feeding the "Gascolator" (fuel filter) mounted thereon. The fuel tanks were found to be empty of useable fuel.