

No: 12/92

Ref: EW/G92/10/09

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Pitts S-1S (Modified) Pitts Special, G-BOOK

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming IO-360-B4A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1973

Date & Time (UTC): 19 October 1992 at 1430 hrs

Location: Spanhoe Airfield, Northamptonshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Aircraft destroyed by fire

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 32 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 1,102 hours (of which 655 were on type)
Last 90 days - 14 hours
Last 28 days - 3 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

After performing an aerobatic sequence lasting about one minute with the display smoke system switched on, the pilot leveled off downwind to land and switched the smoke system off. On short finals he heard an unfamiliar noise and, after landing, noticed that the floor panel was on fire. The pilot opened the engine cowling, but could not stop the fire; five fire extinguishers were obtained from the hangar but, by the time they arrived, the aircraft was well alight and they were ineffective.

The display smoke system comprised a four gallon tank of diesel oil pumped by an electric booster pump, through an electrically operated shut-off valve, into the engine exhaust. The pilot ascribed the accident to a diesel oil leak running down the fire wall onto the engine and causing a fire on the underside of the aircraft.