

No: 1/83

Ref: EW/C809/01

Aircraft: Cessna 172 G-AVAS

Year of Manufacture: 1967

Date and time (GMT): 19 December 1982 at 1140 hrs

Location: Halfpenny Green

Type of flight: Private (Training)

Persons on board: Crew - 2 Passengers - Nil

Injuries: Crew - 2 Passengers - N/A

Nature of damage: Aircraft destroyed

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence with Instructor's Rating

Commander's Age: 52 years

Commander's total flying experience: 14030 hours (of which 800 were on type)

The aircraft was engaged in a circuit training detail and had carried out six touch and go landings on Runway 16. The cloudbase was at 800 ft and the surface wind 180 degrees 26 knots. Shortly after getting airborne on the seventh touch and go landing the engine started to mis-fire at about 100 ft. The instructor took control and managed to restore the power by pumping the throttle but at about 500 ft the engine cut out completely. An attempt was made to turn back to the airfield but the pilot failed to make the boundary and crashed into the public road bordering the airfield. Examination of the wreckage showed that there was no fuel in either the carburettor or fuel filter nor in the left hand tank. The right tank contained less than 10 litres of fuel and the fuel cock was found selected to the left tank by another pilot who assisted in making the aircraft safe. No pre-existing defects in the engine or fuel system were found. The student had pointed out to his instructor that there was little fuel in the aircraft before the first take-off but the instructor thought that there was sufficient for the flight.

After the impact a small electrical/engine oil fire was extinguished by the airfield fire service who were quickly on the scene.