

No: 1/93 **Ref:** EW/G92/09/21 **Category:** 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Beech H35 Bonanza, G-ASJL

No & Type of Engines: 1 Continental O-470-G piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1957

Date & Time (UTC): 26 September 1992 at 1113 hrs

Location: Elstree Airport, Hertfordshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Damage to main landing gear and doors, left tip tank, nose cowling and propeller

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence with IMC and Night ratings

Commander's Age: 42 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 326 hours (no previous experience on type)
Last 90 days - 34 hours
Last 28 days - 14 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was flown by a potential buyer, with the vendor in the righthand seat. It was the former's first flight on the type of aircraft; the latter had about 80 hours on type. Having landed on runway 08 the aircraft was taxied past the exit to allow a waiting aircraft to enter and backtrack. It was brought to a halt on the runway; the brakes were then released, a small amount of power was applied and, as it started to move forward the right rudder was used to steer the nosewheel in that direction. The pilot reported that it was as the aircraft started to turn that the landing gear started to retract. The pilot in the righthand seat carried out the shutdown drills and both occupants vacated the aircraft without injury.

The landing gear is selected by a switch to the right of the centre console; there was no evidence to suggest that this switch was operated, however, inadvertent landing gear retraction on the ground should be prevented by the action of a weight-on-wheels switch in the landing gear system. It is intended that a complete check of the landing gear system be carried out at some future date when the necessary repair work is undertaken.