

No: 1/87

Ref: 1c

Aircraft type and registration: Reims Cessna F172K G-BFPH

No & Type of engines: 1 Continental Motors Corporation 0-300-D piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1971

Date and time (UTC): 22 November 1986 at 1030 hrs

Location: 1 nm east of runway 27 at Andrewsfield, Essex

Type of flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — None

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Minor damage to one propeller blade and the underside of the fuselage

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 55 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 202 hours (of which 30 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft had been flying for 50 minutes in the local area and when 10 nm to the east of Andrewsfield at 2000 feet, the engine misfired. The pilot turned the aircraft towards Andrewsfield and requested a straight-in approach to runway 27. The wind was 250/15 kt.

When approach flap was selected and descent initiated, the engine misfired again and then stopped. The pilot stated that she transmitted a "Distress Message" and carried out the emergency checks, at which time the fuel gauges indicated half full.

A gentle landing was made in a field 1500 metres short of the runway, at the far end of which the aircraft came to rest, nose into a hedge. The pilot switched off the electrics and the fuel and left the aircraft via the normal door.

Subsequent examination showed that the fuel tanks were empty of usable fuel and that the fuel gauges incorrectly overread. The pilot stated that she did not physically check the fuel contents during the pre-flight checks.