

Jodel D120A, G-BJOE

AAIB Bulletin No: 5/99 Ref: EW/G99/02/15 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Jodel D120A, G-BJOE

No & Type of Engines: 1 Continental C90-14F piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1960

Date & Time (UTC): 24 February 1999 at 1315 hrs

Location: East Fortune, Scotland

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Paint scorched on lower right side engine cowling and some damage to outer layer of cowling fibreglass

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 59 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 439 hours (of which 32 were on type)

Last 90 days - 2 hours

Last 28 days - 2 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot, who was also co-owner, wheeled the aircraft from the hangar, chocked it and carried out external pre-flight checks, including the engine compartment and oil level. He then applied the brakes and removed the forward chocks. Before attempting a start, the pilot primed the engine, which 'kicked' at the first attempt but failed to start. The pilot primed again and this time the engine started, running normally with immediate rise of oil pressure.

The pilot left the engine to warm up and then noticed a small amount of smoke drifting low in front of the starboard wing. He immediately closed the fuel cock, shutdown the engine and left the aircraft. Vestiges of flame disappeared from the area of the carburettor-heat box as he reached the front of the engine. The pilot considers that the cause of the small engine fire was his over-priming of the engine and that his further priming of the engine after the first, abortive, start compounded the problem.