

McDonnell Douglas DC-10, N14075

AAIB Bulletin No: 3/97 Ref: EW/G97/01/18 Category: 1.1

Aircraft Type and Registration:	McDonnell Douglas DC-10, N14075
No & Type of Engines:	3 General Electric CF6-45A2 turbofan engines
Year of Manufacture:	1976
Date & Time (UTC):	23 January 1997 at 21.08 hrs
Location:	Pulborough, West Sussex
Type of Flight:	Public Transport
Persons on Board:	Crew - Not applicable - Passengers - Not applicable
Injuries:	Crew - None - Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Hole in roof of private house - no injuries
Commander's Licence:	Not applicable
Commander's Age:	Not applicable
Commander's Flying Experience:	Not applicable
Information Source:	Enquiries by AAIB and the FAA

On 23 January a resident of a private house in Pulborough heard a loud bang on the roof and went outside to investigate. There was a hole in the roof and a number of broken roof tiles together with lumps of clear ice were found on the driveway. The time of the incident was reported to be approximately 21.15 hrs. A search of the radar recordings between 21.10 and 21.20 hrs did not reveal any aircraft which could have dropped ice at this position. The search time period of the radar recording was increased and just after 21.07 hrs an American registered DC-10 was found to have tracked within a few hundred metres of the house while passing 9,500 feet in the descent to Gatwick.

The FAA were asked to contact the airline concerned who reported that, on 26 January, they had found the overflow valve sticking on the No. 2 water tank of this aircraft. This had prevented the valve from closing completely and allowed the contents of this tank to be depleted during 2 hours of flight. The valve was repaired and there has been no recurrence of the problem since.