



Ref: 7327

SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Accident	15/03/01	Time of Accident	1525Z	
Aircraft Registration	ZS-ERA	Type of Aircraft	Cessna 172 H	
Pilot-in-command Licence Type	Student Pilot		Licence Valid	Yes
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience	Total Flying Hours	35.25	Total Hours on Type	35.25
Type of Operation	Training			
Last point of departure	Potchefstroom			
Next point of intended landing	Potchefstroom			

Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (plus GPS readings if possible)

25nm West of Klerksdorp.

Meteorological Information	The Weather was fine				
Number of people on board	1	No. Of people injured	N/A	No. of people killed	1

Synopsis

The student pilot was on his solo navigation flight from Potchefstroom, Parys, Kroonstad, Klerksdorp and back to Potchefstroom. He departed Potchefstroom at 1220Z for Parys and landed there where the aircraft was refueled to capacity. At 1310Z the pilot took off from Parys to complete the rest of his navigation flight.

A farmer observed an aircraft at approximately 1515z flying in a Westerly direction. It was extremely low. He went into his house and approximately 5 minutes later he heard a loud thud and discovered that the aircraft had crashed approximately 50 meters to the south of his house.

The weather conditions were CAVOK and the geographical position of the accident was determined as S26°44.826' E26°13.593' indicating that the aircraft was 13° left of track and 25nm North West from Klerksdorp the last turning point.

Probable Cause

For some unknown reason the student pilot intentionally deviated from his planned route and lost control of the aircraft during a turn.