



Ref: 7602

SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY**ACCIDENT REPORT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Aircraft Registration	ZS-TAC	Date of Accident	10 December 2002		Time of Accident	1500Z
Type of Aircraft	CESSNA 150J			Type of Operation	Private	
Pilot-in-command Licence Type		Commercial pilot	Age	65	Licence Valid	Yes
Pilot-in-command Flying Experience		Total Flying Hours	4435.0		Hours on Type	Unknown
Last point of departure		Runway 03, Vereeniging aerodrome				
Next point of intended landing		Vereeniging aerodrome				
Location of the accident site with reference to easily defined geographical points (GPS readings if possible)						
On a maize farm in the Holfontein district, approximately 19nm South West of Vereeniging aerodrome. South 26°40'28.6" and East 027°38'02.6".						
Meteorological Information		CAVOK				
Number of people on board	1 + 1	No. of people injured	Nil		No. of people killed	1 + 1

Synopsis

The instructor/owner of the aircraft was accompanied by a passenger (private pilot) on a local flight from Vereeniging aerodrome to the general flying training area West of van der Bijl Park when the accident occurred.

According to the fuel attendant at Vereeniging aerodrome, the aircraft was refuelled with 30 litres of AVGAS 100LL, 15 litres in each tank prior to the flight. He stated that the tanks were not filled to capacity and could not indicate what the fuel state of the aircraft was after the refuelling operation.

At 1349Z the aircraft took off from Runway 03 at Vereeniging aerodrome and routed towards the General Flying Training area West of Vereeniging.

According to an eye witness who had been working on a farm in the Holfontein district (19 nm South West of Vereeniging aerodrome and just to the South of the General Flying Training Area) he noticed the aircraft approaching from an easterly direction at relatively high altitude when he heard the engine sound diminish where after the aircraft's nose dropped and the aircraft started to spin to the right. The aircraft completed several spin rotations and collided with the ground while still spinning.

Another eye-witness also noticed the aircraft just prior to the accident and also saw it enter a spin but indicated a left-hand spin as opposed to the first eye-witness who had indicated a right hand spin. He also stated that the aircraft continued spinning and collided with the ground. Both occupants were fatally injured on impact and the aircraft was destroyed.

Probable Cause

The accident occurred following an intentional spin manoeuvre when the aircraft failed to recover and was seen to complete several spin rotations before colliding with the ground and fatally injuring both occupants. No mechanical or medical factor that could have contributed to the accident was found.