



LIMITED ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORT
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Reference Number		CA18/2/3/9998					
Classification	Accident	Date	6 May 2021	Time	1450Z		
Type of Operation		Private (Part 91)					
Location							
Place of Departure		Zebula Airfield	Place of Intended Landing		Rand Airport (FAGM)		
Place of Accident		Parking bay, Zebula Airfield, Limpopo Province					
GPS Co-ordinates	Latitude	24°45'22" S	Longitude	027°58'12" E	Elevation	3965ft	
Aircraft Information							
Registration		ZS-FJU					
Model/Make		Cessna 172K					
Damage to Aircraft		Substantial	Total Aircraft Hours		13252.18		
Pilot-in-command							
Licence Valid		Yes	Gender		Male	Age	29
Licence Type		Private Pilot Licence (Aeroplane)					
Total Hours on Type		±46.3		Total Flying Hours		118.3	
People On-board	1+1	Injuries	0	Fatalities	0	Other (on ground)	0
What Happened							
<p>On 2 June 2021 at approximately 1301Z a pilot, accompanied by a passenger on-board a Cessna 172K aircraft with registration ZS-FJU, was engaged in an hour building flight from Rand Airport (FAGM) to Zebula Airfield. The flight was conducted under Visual Flight Rules (VFR) by day. A full stop landing was carried out at Zebula Airfield. Approximately two hours later, the pair walked back to the aircraft to prepare for a return flight to FAGM.</p> <p>The pilot attempted three times to start the aircraft's engine, but without success. The pilot then called the safety pilot of the training school who advised him to wait for about five minutes to avoid over flooding the engine. About five minutes later, the pilot tried to start the engine again, but the engine still did not respond. To prevent draining the battery, the pilot switched off the master switch for a few minutes. Moments later, the pilot and the passenger saw smoke coming from the engine cowlings and they both disembarked the aircraft. As soon as they disembarked the aircraft, they saw flames emanating from the engine compartment. The fire was successfully extinguished by the pilot using the on-board hand-held Halon fire extinguisher.</p> <p>The aircraft sustained fire damage to the engine compartment and the paint work on the cowlings. The pilot and the passenger did not sustain any injuries during the accident.</p>							



Figure 1: Front section of the nose compartment that caught fire. (Source: Pilot)

The cause of fire was due to over priming the engine, which led to fuel flooding the cylinder heads which were still hot, and thus, ignited the fuel.

Safety Action/s

None.

Safety Message and/or Safety Recommendation/s

None.

Purpose of the Investigation

*In terms of Regulation 12.03.1 of the Civil Aviation Regulations (CAR) 2011, this report was compiled in the interest of the promotion of aviation safety and the reduction of the risk of aviation accidents or incidents and **not to apportion blame or liability.***

About this Report

Decisions regarding whether to investigate, and the scope of an investigation are based on many factors, including the level of safety benefit likely to be obtained from an investigation. For this occurrence, no investigation has been conducted, and the Accident and Incident Investigations Division (AIID) has relied on the information submitted by the affected person/s and organisation/s to compile this brief report. The report has been compiled using information supplied in the initial notification, as well as follow-up information to bring awareness of potential safety issues to the industry in respect of this occurrence, as well as possible safety action/s that the industry might want to consider in preventing a recurrence of a similar accident.

This report provides an opportunity to share safety message/s in the absence of an investigation.

All times given in this report are Co-ordinated Universal Time (UTC) and will be denoted by (Z). South African Standard Time is UTC plus 2 hours.

Disclaimer	
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This report is issued by:

**Accident and Incident Investigations Division
South African Civil Aviation Authority
Republic of South Africa**