

INTERIM STATEMENT

Accident and Incident Investigations Division

Accident
ZS-AEC Interim Statement -
AIID Ref No: CA18/2/3/10595



Figure 1: The file picture of the aircraft. (Source: <https://www.jetphotos.com/registration/ZS-AEC>)

Description:

On Thursday afternoon, 14 August 2025, a pilot on-board an Extra EA-300L aircraft with registration ZS-AEC took off from Virginia Airport (FAVG) in KwaZulu-Natal province to the Suncoast Casino in the same province to take part in an airshow, with the intention to return to FAVG. At approximately 1151Z, the aircraft entered the display box and the pilot commenced with the aerobatic display. At 1154Z whilst the aircraft was in a left aileron roll (rolling to the left), it levelled off and impacted the waters. The Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC) declared a distress phase (DETRESFA) at 1157Z. The on-site emergency personnel which comprised the National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI), including the South African Police Service (SAPS), the eThekweni Metro Police Search and Rescue (EMPSR) and the South African Defence Navy (SADN) responded to the crash site and began with the search and rescue operation. Parts of the wreckage were recovered, including the empennage, elevators, both wings' skin composite covers, both wings' ailerons and the engine. The cockpit section of the aircraft and the pilot were not located during the initial search and rescue operation. The pilot was found fatally injured at Bay Beach on the evening of 12 September 2025.

DESCRIPTION OF THE OCCURRENCE

Occurrence Reference	: CA18/2/3/10595
Occurrence Category	: Category 1 (Accident)
Name of the Operator	: Andrew Blackwood Murray
Manufacturer	: Extra Flugzeugbau GmbH
Aircraft Model	: EA-300L
Engines	: Lycoming/AEIO-540-L1B5
Nationality	: South African
Registration	: ZS-AEC
Manufacture Serial Number	: 1209
Date of Manufacture	: 2005
Flight Hours/Cycles	: 17 235
Type of Flight	: Private (Part 91)
State of Occurrence	: South Africa
Place of Occurrence	: In the ocean at Battery Beach near Suncoast Casino, Durban
Date and Time	: 14 August 2025 at 1154Z
Total Crewmembers	: 1
Total Passengers	: 0
Injuries to Passengers and Crew	: Fatal
Other Injuries	: None
Nature of Damage	: Destroyed

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.

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.***

This interim statement gives a summary of the progress of the investigation and should be read in conjunction with the preliminary report reference number CA18/2/3/10995 that was published on 13 September 2025.

This interim statement is released in accordance with Standard 6.6 of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Annex 13 and the CAR Part 12.05.1(7).

Later, a final report may contain altered information in case new evidence is uncovered during the on-going investigation.

Any person who has information regarding this accident should contact the AIID on AIIDinbox@caa.co.za

Investigation process:

The occurrence was categorised as an accident, and the Accident and Incident Investigations Division (AIID) assigned File Number CA18/2/3/10595 to this investigation.

The AIID appointed an investigator-in-charge (IIC), supported by a co-investigator and other investigators in the division. The State of Manufacturer and Design was notified of the accident. The State did not assign an accredited representative or an expert. The operator also did not assign an advisor to the IIC. The AIID is leading the investigation and will issue the final report.

The AIID reports are made available to the public at:

<https://www.caa.co.za/industry-information/accidents-and-incidents/>

Disclaimer:

This interim statement is produced without prejudice to the rights of the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA), which are reserved.

Interim Statement

The investigators are at the final stages of reviewing and verifying the pilot's experience during the period preceding the accident, analysing the human performance factors that could have influenced the pilot's actions, and analysing the post-mortem and toxicology reports. The report will then follow the standard approval process during September 2026. It is envisaged that the final report will be released on or before 31 October 2026.

This report is issued by:

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