

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198903813**

Beechcraft 95-C55 Baron

6 October 1989

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NOTE: All air safety occurrences reported to the ATSB are categorised and recorded. For a detailed explanation on Category definitions please refer to the ATSB website at www.atsb.gov.au.

Occurrence Number: 198903813
Location: Lake Nash NT
Date: 6 October 1989
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident

Time: 1425

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	1

Aircraft Details: Beechcraft 95-C55 Baron
Registration: VH-ASW
Serial Number: TE-402
Operation Type: Charter
Damage Level: Destroyed
Departure Point: Lake Nash NT
Departure Time:
Destination: Tennant Creek NT

Approved for Release: 7th December 1989

Circumstances:

When approaching Lake Nash the pilot had selected the fuel boost pumps to low in accordance with the manufacturer's operating handbook. He started to smell fuel so he turned the pumps off. After landing he shut down and unloaded the appropriate freight. On start up he did not smell any fuel but, at about 40 knots on the takeoff run, the left wing tip exploded and the aircraft caught fire. The pilot brought the aircraft to a stop off the strip and evacuated the aircraft. He was unable to recover any of his documents before the aircraft was totally destroyed by fire. Examination by an engineer indicated that the fire may have started in the left wheel well area and that fuel vapour in the wing had exploded through the wing tip.

Significant Factors:

The following factors were considered relevant to the development of the accident

1. Fuel leak in left wing.
2. Pilot did not have source of fuel smell investigated.
3. No suitable fire fighting apparatus was available and as a result the fire could not be extinguished prior to the destruction of the aircraft.