

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198901571**

Thruster TST

26 February 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.

This accident was not the subject of an on site investigation.

Occurrence Number: 198901571 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 4 km East of Anakie VIC
Date: 26 February 1989 **Time:** 1800
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

	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: Thruster TST
Registration: 25-0187
Serial Number: N/A
Operation Type: Sport Aviation
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Lovely Banks VIC
Departure Time: 1750
Destination: Anakie VIC

Approved for Release: 6 May 1989

Circumstances:

While flying straight and level at 45 knots, the engine began to splutter. The pilot immediately used the hand fuel pump but his efforts were unsuccessful and the engine stopped as a result of fuel starvation. From the air the ground below looked suitable for a forced landing. However, at a low height it became apparent that the ground surface was rocky. During the landing roll the left mainwheel struck a rock. A subsequent examination of the fuel system discovered a piece of red, electrical, insulation tape within the fuel tank. This tape had blocked off the outlet pipe from the fuel tank to the engine. The pilot believes that the piece of electrical tape had probably originated from refuelling equipment and entered the tank during a refuel from drum stock.

Significant Factors:

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

1. The fuel tanks were contaminated by a piece of insulation tape.
2. The tape blocked the fuel tank outlet pipe.
3. The pilot was forced to land on unsuitable terrain.