

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
199702627**

**Saab Aircraft AB  
340**

**17 August 1997**

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Investigations commenced on or before 30 June 2003, including the publication of reports as a result of those investigations, are authorised by the Executive Director of the Bureau in accordance with Part 2A of the Air Navigation Act 1920.

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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](http://www.atsb.gov.au).**

The Bureau did not conduct an on scene investigation of this occurrence. The information presented below was obtained from information supplied to the Bureau.

<b>Occurrence Number:</b>	199702627	<b>Occurrence Type:</b>	Incident
<b>Location:</b>	50km SSW Port Macquarie, Aerodrome		
<b>State:</b>	NSW	<b>Inv Category:</b>	4
<b>Date:</b>	Sunday 17 August 1997		
<b>Time:</b>	1617 hours	<b>Time Zone</b>	EST
<b>Highest Injury Level:</b>	None		

<b>Aircraft Manufacturer:</b>	Saab Aircraft AB		
<b>Aircraft Model:</b>	SF-340B		
<b>Aircraft Registration:</b>	VH-EKH	<b>Serial Number:</b>	369
<b>Type of Operation:</b>	Air Transport Domestic Low Capacity Passenger Scheduled		
<b>Damage to Aircraft:</b>	Nil		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Sydney NSW		
<b>Departure Time:</b>	1530 EST		
<b>Destination:</b>	Coffs Harbour NSW		

**Approved for Release:** Thursday, August 21, 1997

### **Circumstances**

A distress phase was declared after the crew reported they were diverting the aircraft for a landing at Port Macquarie due to a fire warning in the cargo hold. The crew reported that they had discharged the fire extinguisher for the cargo hold in accordance with the emergency procedures. However there was no other indication of fire. The aircraft landed safely a short time later and all passengers disembarked without incident.

Post flight examination confirmed that the fire warning was spurious. Company engineering personnel advised that it is a known problem. The manufacturer is currently modifying the fire detector system for this aircraft type. The operator will submit a Major Defect Report for the incident to CASA Airworthiness.