Aviation Safety Investigation Report 199600731

Amateur Built Aircraft GII-S-FD

06 March 1996

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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.

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

Occurrence Number:	199600731	Occurrence Type:	Accident	
Location:	Esperance, Aerodrome			
State:	WA	Inv Category:	4	
Date:	Wednesday 06 March 1996			
Time:	0730 hours	Time Zone	WST	
Highest Injury Level: None				
Aircraft Manufacture	r: Amateur Built Aircraft			
Aircraft Model:	GII-S-FD			
Aircraft Registration:	VH-OOO	Serial Number:	N115	
Type of Operation:	Non-commercial Busine	SS		
Damage to Aircraft:	Substantial			
Departure Point:	Esperance WA			
Departure Time:	0730 WST			
Destination:	Alice Springs NT			
Crew Details:				

	Hours on		
Role	Class of Licence	Type Hour	rs Total
Pilot-In-Command	Private	246.0	644

Approved for Release: Thursday, March 7, 1996

The pilot was taxiing the aircraft for takeoff at the time of the accident. He had just completed refuelling at the fixed fuel bowser and was turning the aircraft to the right when it collided with a refuelling cart that had been positioned to refuel a regular public transport aircraft that was expected to land shortly. The impact crushed a section of the wing's leading edge and then, as the cart rolled over it punched a hole in the lower surface of the wing fuel tank.

The cart had been repositioned by the fuel agent between the time the pilot completed refuelling and when he taxied the aircraft. The cart had not been there when he taxied in and he was not expecting it to be there when he taxied out. The Glassair aircraft has a tailwheel and forward visibility is partly restricted. The pilot was speaking to the crew of the regular public transport aircraft, to establish their intentions, as he taxied out and this probably distracted him. He also reported that he was not feeling well and this may have reduced his concentration.