

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199601691**

**de Havilland Canada
Dash 8**

21 May 1996

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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.

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:	199601691	Occurrence Type:	Incident
Location:	En route Mildura to Melbourne		
State:	VIC	Inv Category:	4
Date:	Tuesday 21 May 1996		
Time:	1800 hours	Time Zone	EST
Highest Injury Level:	None		

Aircraft Manufacturer:	de Havilland Canada		
Aircraft Model:	DHC-8-102		
Aircraft Registration:	VH-WZI	Serial Number:	014
Type of Operation:	Air Transport Domestic Low Capacity Passenger Scheduled		
Damage to Aircraft:	Nil		
Departure Point:	Mildura Vic		
Departure Time:	1700 EST		
Destination:	Melbourne Vic		

Approved for Release: Tuesday, August 27, 1996

The pilot-in-command reported that during cruise at flight level 210 an intermittent acrid electrical burning smell was noted. Shortly afterwards a white flash occurred near the wiring terminals of the right forward windscreen. This was followed by a fire at the electrical terminals. Appropriate emergency drills were completed by the crew and a fire extinguisher was used to extinguish the fire. The windshield heat was switched off and a descent commenced. Passing flight level 130 on descent the outer windshield panels shattered. A safe landing was made into Melbourne.

Maintenance found that the windscreen integral bus bar had overheated and ignited. The window is to be returned to the manufacturer for analysis. The windshield temperature controller was also changed as a precautionary measure.