

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199602557**

**Beech Aircraft Corp
B300**

09 August 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:	199602557	Occurrence Type:	Incident
Location:	Brisbane		
State:	QLD	Inv Category:	4
Date:	Friday 09 August 1996		
Time:	0605 hours	Time Zone	EST
Highest Injury Level:	None		

Aircraft Manufacturer:	Beech Aircraft Corp		
Aircraft Model:	B300		
Aircraft Registration:	VH-OXF	Serial Number:	FL122
Type of Operation:	Charter	Positioning	
Damage to Aircraft:	Minor		
Departure Point:	Brisbane QLD		
Departure Time:	0600 EST		
Destination:	Blackwater QLD		

Approved for Release: Monday, September 30, 1996

During climb, passing 5,300 ft, a loud bang was heard. The pilot initially thought the noise to be a birdstrike, however it was noticed that the inner cowl on the left engine had fallen from the aircraft. The pilot elected to return to Brisbane. Post flight inspection revealed that the cowl had torn off along the hinge line and had struck the fuselage forward of the entry door causing denting and scoring of the fuselage skin.

The aircraft had undergone maintenance on the previous day but no work had been done on the left engine, and there was no known reason for the left engine cowl to be unfastened. The copilot, who performed the daily inspection in the early hours of the morning (it was still dark) had not noticed the cowl was not properly fastened. The cause of the cowl being unfastened could not be determined.