Aviation Safety Investigation Report 199500786

Beech Aircraft Corp 1900D

19 March 1995

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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.

Aviation Safety Investigation Report

199500786

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: 199500786 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 30km N Coffs Harbour
State: NSW **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Sunday 19 March 1995
Time: 1555 hours **Time Zone** EST
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Beech Aircraft Corp
Aircraft Model: 1900D
Aircraft Registration: VH-IPB **Serial Number:** UE 117
Type of Operation: Air Transport Domestic Low Capacity Passenger Scheduled
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Coffs Harbour NSW
Departure Time: 1553 EST
Destination: Lismore NSW

Approved for Release: Thursday, March 7, 1996

During climb to cruise, passing 7,500 ft, the ground proximity warning system sounded as the aircraft encountered moderate rain and light hail. There were storm cells on either side of track.

Post flight inspection revealed hail damage to all leading edges, right landing light cover, and radome.

The ground proximity warning system often gives a false alarm when it encounters precipitation (heavy rain and/or hail). This is a known deficiency against which there is no technological defence.

The pilot had remained clear of the storm cells by using his airborne radar. It is a known phenomena that hail can fall well outside its associated storm cells.