



A 02/18



Date : 25 February 2018
Type : M-18A Dromader
Registration : VH-FOS
Operator : Retsof Pty. Ltd.
Fatality : 0
Nature : Power plant
Location : Keratong, Pahang

SUMMARY

VH-FOS departed Keratong Airstrip (02 55.230N 102 52.727E) at approximately 1221LT after two drums of fuels uploaded together with load number 9 of agricultural spraying agent. The aircraft depart with less than the maximum take-off weight allowable for Dromader.

On roll out for the spraying run, pilot notices the power setting of 55% had dropped to 35%. After switching on the fuel pump and applying more power, the power goes up to 40% but then dropped again.

Pilot then decided to land the aircraft at any nearest available place. Only a patch of shrubbery seem to be the best option for the pilot to land. On descending, the engine completely failed. At this instant pilot dumped the spraying agent and flared the aircraft until it settled on the shrub. The aircraft crashed approximately 3Nm to the North East of the airstrips. Pilot evacuated the aircraft safely and the aircraft damaged beyond repair.

CAUSE

The cause of the accident was due to fuel contamination which lead to engine failure during flight.

SAFETY RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. Operator to develop Standard Operating Procedure on a proper management of fuel at work side including the proper ways of testing the fuel (not just dipping the capsule), storing of fuel drum after being unloaded and proper storage of fuel hose when not in use.
2. Operator is to emphasise on the Quality Assurance in order to ensure the usage of expired water detector capsules will not happen again when checking for fuel contamination.
3. Operator is to provide course and/or training including refresher training for ground handler on managing fuel.
4. Operator is to conduct a quality control on a fuel management and usage of fuel from drum storage.