

AIRCRAFT INCIDENT - HEALESVILLE, VIC, AUSTRALIA

Sunday, 29 May 2005

On the 23rd of April 2005 at around 11:30am a light aircraft crashed into the ground near Healesville in Victoria, Australia. Emergency services were called to the scene urgently.



The emergency services that responded included the Victoria Police, Metropolitan Ambulance Service, Country Fire Authority and the Victoria State Emergency Service. Other services attended the scene during the incident such as the ATSB and Red Cross.



Just arrived on scene setting up and establishing what needs to be done. The plane is/was a Cessna A150L with one person on board. The pilot was experienced and was flying from Moorabbin to Coldstream Airports.

Initial task is to create an access point for the ambulance officers to establish the condition of the pilot. This is the same paddock that another plane crashed in several years ago!



Planning how to gain entry for the ambulance officers with the Fire brigade standing by in case of fire due to leaking fuel and our inability to reach the battery at this time.



Hard at work creating the access point whilst doing minimum damage possible to the aircraft for the Air Traffic Safety Bureau (ATSB) people which have to fly down from Canberra. The entire area around the incident is being treated as a crime scene until they give the all clear.



After a short wait of around 6 hours the ATSB crew arrive, take their initial readings and allow us to extricate the deceased pilot with explicit instructions take we are not to touch or move any switch or control in the cockpit as it may be important in determining the cause of the incident.

Thanks to the Red Cross who provided lunch for the forty or so people from the Police, Ambos, Fire fighters and State Emergency Service involved in the incident.



The pilot has been extricated from what has become a very small space; we have packed up our tools and equipment and are about to head back to the depot for a debrief.

The ATSB have assigned the following information to the incident:

- ATSB occurrence number 200501788
- ATSB reference number M200502734
- Aircraft registration VH-UPS
- Airspace type CTAF
- Airspace class G