

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199203867**

**Howard Aircraft Corporation
DGA-15P**

29 October 1992

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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.

Occurrence Number: 199203867 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: 0.5km N Avalon Airfield
State: VIC **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Thursday 29 October 1992
Time: 1117 hours **Time Zone** ESuT
Highest Injury Level: None

Aircraft Manufacturer: Howard Aircraft Corporation
Aircraft Model: DGA-15P
Aircraft Registration: VH-DGA **Serial Number:** 1776
Type of Operation: Non-commercial Pleasure/Travel
Damage to Aircraft: Destroyed
Departure Point: Avalon VIC
Departure Time: 1116 ESuT
Destination: Essendon VIC

Crew Details:

<u>Role</u>	<u>Class of Licence</u>	<u>Hours on</u>	
		<u>Type</u>	<u>Hours Total</u>
Pilot-In-Command	Private	180.0	780

Approved for Release: Thursday, July 21, 1994

During the takeoff roll all engine indications were normal. However, shortly after liftoff the pilot noted that engine RPM was decreasing. Efforts to restore power were not successful, and the pilot was committed to a forced landing on rough terrain beyond the end of the flight strip. During the landing roll the left main landing gear was dislodged and a fuel tank was ruptured. Fire broke out and destroyed the aircraft.

The subsequent examination of the wreckage was hampered because of the extensive fire damage. The only abnormality discovered was that those spark plugs which could be removed from the engine showed signs of being exposed to an over-rich fuel/air mixture. The fire damage to the relevant engine systems prevented the reason for this condition from being positively determined.