

No: 8/88

Ref: EW/G88/04/18

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Helio H-395 Courier, G-ARLD

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming GO-480-G1D6 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1961

Date and Time (UTC): 19 April at 0630 hrs

Location: Tilstock (Whitchurch) Airport, Salop

Type of Flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Aircraft destroyed by fire

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 42 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 1000 (of which 150 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the Pilot

The aircraft was being hand-started prior to a positioning flight to a maintenance organisation to rectify the unserviceable electric starter.

The engine started after numerous attempts but flames were seen coming out of the cowling towards the rear of the engine. Despite efforts to extinguish the fire, and the prompt attendance of the fire service, the fire spread and destroyed the aircraft.

The owner reports that the aircraft had been standing for six weeks prior to the accident and considerable use was made of the electric pump/primer during the attempts to start the engine. He believes that excessive priming was responsible for the fire.