

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Sukhoi SU-29, HA-YAO	
No & Type of Engines:	1 M14 PF piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1998	
Date & Time (UTC):	1 February 2007 at 1649 hrs	
Location:	Southend Airport	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Damage to the engine and engine compartment	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	64 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	950 hours (of which 56 were on type) Last 90 days - 27 hours Last 28 days - 7 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

The pilot was attempting to start the engine, which was warm, when a fire broke out in the engine compartment. Both the pilot and the passenger evacuated the aircraft via the normal canopy exit. The fire was extinguished by the airport fire services shortly after their arrival, and nobody was injured in the accident.

History of the flight

The pilot refuelled the aircraft in the self-refuel area, having just completed some circuit flying. He then primed the engine, which was warm, and attempted to start it, which resulted in the engine firing and then stopping twice. The pilot then replenished the air supply for the pneumatic starter. On the next attempt to start the engine, it backfired and a fire broke out in the engine bay.

The pilot and passenger evacuated the aircraft via the normal canopy exit. They attempted to tackle the fire with two fire extinguishers which were located at the self-refuel area, but the size of the fire increased, probably as a result of the fire spreading to the aircraft's oil tank. A fire officer noticed the fire and raised the crash alarms, and the fire was extinguished by the airport fire services shortly after their arrival.

The pilot attributed the accident to a carburettor fire, probably due to over-priming a warm engine.