

News

Light plane to make emergency landing at Bunbury Airport

- *ALYESHA ANDERSON and KAITLYN OFFER*
- *PerthNow*
- December 29, 2014 12:52PM



Emergency crews ready for an emergency light plane landing at Bunbury Airport. Picture: Twitter/Nine News Perth



Ellen Sorensen, the chief flying instructor at Bunbury Aero Club, who is about to make an emergency landing at Bunbury Airport. Picture: bunburyaeroclub.com.au

THE pilot of a light plane has made a safe emergency landing at Bunbury Airport after the aircraft encountered mechanical problems.

Emergency services were on standby after the pilot alerted authorities about 10.30am she would be forced to make an emergency landing after having difficulty with the landing gear of the small, twin-engine aircraft.

The two people on board were pilot Ellen Sorenson, the chief flying instructor of the Bunbury Aero Club and a male passenger, also an experienced pilot.

The Bunbury Aero Club confirmed to *PerthNow* the aircraft had landed safely and no one was injured. But the extent of damage to the aircraft is unclear at this stage.

A WA Police spokesman said the pilot had to circle the airport to reduce the aircraft's fuel load before the emergency landing.

He said as expected, the pilot was forced to land the plane without its landing gear, resulting in the plane sliding along the runway.

"The pilot and the passenger have both exited the plane and are not injured. As a precaution, the plane was hosed down by fire fighters to reduce the risk of any fire," the spokesman said.

The airport will now use a crane to remove the plane from the runway."

Ms Sorensen has been with the Bunbury Aero Club since January 2009. She completed her commercial pilot license in 2008 at the club and is the club's youngest and first female chief flying instructor.

Ms Sorensen is responsible for all Recreational Aviation Australia related matters.

Police, firefighting and ambulance crews sent out to the scene will now stand down.

Extracted from:

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On 29/12/14 at 16:29:16