

Former Solicitor-General survives Toowoomba plane crash

2nd Aug 2014 1:31 PM Updated: 3:07 PM

UPDATE: Former Solicitor-General of Queensland Walter Sofronoff has walked away from a plane crash at Toowoomba Airport.

Mr Sofronoff was attempting to take-off in his friend's De Havilland Tiger Moth when he encountered difficulty with cross-winds shortly after midday today.

Mr Sofronoff resigned from his state role in March this year after a public stoush with Attorney-General Jarrod Bleijie.

He was today able to walk back to a hangar after freeing himself from the plane's wreckage.



Walter Sofronoff

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Anzac Ave station officer Tony Guse said the pilot was lucky to escape injury.

"He is up and mobile, a little bit shaken, but outwardly appears to be quite okay at this point," Mr Guse said.

Mr Guse recalled an eyewitness account of the incident.

"Generally, he has actually suffered from some gusting cross-winds here which have just picked the aircraft up and driven it across.

"It actually originally appeared as if he was going to regain control but has impacted upon the fence and then spun him around into the tree."

The plane crashed through the fence and onto the footpath beside Bridge St.

Mr Guse said it was lucky the plane did not end up in traffic.

A large quantity of fuel leaked from the tank before firefighters isolated the leak.

A crane picked up the aircraft and took it across the runway to a hangar.

"It'll need quite a bit of work before it goes again but any crash you can walk away from is probably a good one," Mr Guse said.

EARLIER: A pilot has walked away from a plane crash beside the Warrego Hwy at Toowoomba Airport.

The De Havilland Tiger Moth encountered cross wind difficulty while taking off from the airport shortly after midday.

It crashed through a fence and came to rest beside Bridge St.

The pilot freed himself from the aircraft before walking back to the Downs Aero Club hangar.

Westbound traffic on Bridge St was reduced to one lane and a crane was called in to move the plane back onto Toowoomba Airport land.

Extracted from:

<http://www.thechronicle.com.au/news/pilot-walks-away-tiger-moth-crash-toowoomba-airpor/2338511/>
02/08/14 @ 17:42:50