

Light aircraft crashes at Saunders Beach

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A light plane has crashed at Saunders Beach, north of Townsville.

A CESSNA pilot is being treated for minor injuries after his plane went down at Saunders Beach north of Townsville.

The aircraft is believed to have been travelling between Palm Island and Townsville when engine trouble caused the pilot to attempt an emergency landing in bushland.

The 58-year-old commercial pilot suffered an ankle injury and ambulance officers are also assessing him for spinal injuries.

Queensland Ambulance Service Inspector Wayne Paxton said the pilot “seemed to be in good spirits”.

“He’s lucky and it doesn’t look like any major injuries (have been) sustained at all so he’s been taken up to the Townsville Hospital for further care and assessment,” he said.

“He’s self-extricated and was able to walk down to the ambulance and meet us there.”

Police Inspector Steve O’Connell said the plane crashed when the pilot attempted to make an emergency landing.

“He was trying to land the plane however at the last minute he’s clipped something and also a bit of a wind gust has made him go nose first into the ground,” Insp O’Connell said.

“There’s been an initial interview with him and the indication is that the motor stalled a couple of times and his initial information to us is that possibly there might have been something wrong with the fuel such as water in it however that needs to be checked out.”

It is believed the pilot was the only person travelling in the Cessna when it went down about 9.30am.

Emergency crews are rushing to the scene and initial reports suggest the pilot is out of the plane.

Extracted from:

<http://www.townsvillebulletin.com.au/news/light-aircraft-crashes-at-saunders-beach/story-fnjfzs4b-1227604383057>

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