

Light plane crashes south of Perth

Rourke Walsh and Gabrielle Knowles - The West Australian on December 8, 2016, 10:43 am

A man in his 70s has been taken to hospital after the light plane he was flying crashed south of Perth this morning.



A pilot has survived a light plane crash in Hopeland, south of Perth. Picture: Seven News.

The plane's engine failed shortly after 10am and it crashed at Serpentine Aerodrome in Hopeland.

The pilot was freed from the wreckage and treated by paramedics for minor injuries.

He has since been taken to Rockingham Hospital.

Rockingham Fire Station station officer Shannon Brophy said crews were worried the aviation fuel might explode after the crash but the pilot had done a fantastic job to land the plane in the thick scrub.

"The way he has landed the aircraft so that it didn't rupture he's done a really good job," Mr Brophy said.

"It's not a nice place to land and it's a very difficult place to land. "The access was bad but... the damage to the plane wasn't horrific."

Mr Brophy said he was not sure what caused the plane to go down but the pilot had crash-landed among dense scrub about 50m from a path.

"Fortunately they had a tractor there that actually bulldozed a track for us to gain access," he said.

"A major concern on arrival was definitely aviation fuel. It was a two-seater fixed wing aircraft, there was only one person inside the aircraft and it holds roughly 100 litres of aviation fuel. Our concern was gaining access to extricate him and also the potential of leaking fuel to cause an explosion."

Mr Brophy said the pilot had been in pretty good spirits and was quite relaxed.

"The ambulance officers were asking him questions to work out his level of consciousness and well-being and he seemed to be pretty good for the situation he was in," he said.

"He was able to walk out, the roof was removed and it was a pretty simple extrication."

Extracted from:

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