

# Pilot forced to crash-land light plane in Halloran paddock after power failure

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**A WITNESS** has described the frightening “big bangs” when a pilot crash-landed his light plane in a paddock near Warnervale Airport on Wednesday afternoon.

Police say the 43-year-old pilot was in the middle of take-off and landing training when power failure in his plane at 500 feet forced an emergency landing just after 2pm.

The man escaped injury after he kicked out a window as his plane came to rest, minus a wing, on Bob Heath’s Mountain Rd property in Halloran.



The 43-year-old pilot (pictured in blue shirt) of the light plane that crashed near Warnervale Airport looks on at the damage after a narrow escape. Picture: Mark Scott

A shocked Mr Heath said he heard two big bangs when the plane crashed.



A pilot walked away uninjured after crash-landing his light plane, which lost a wing, this afternoon. Picture: Mark Scott

“It sounded like big rocks coming out of a tip-truck,” he said.

“And my wife came in and said a plane’s just crashed. She said she saw it when the plane had stopped and the wing was in the process of falling off.”



The aftermath of a plane crash on Bob Heath’s Halloran Mountain Rd property. Picture: Mark Scott

Tuggerah Lakes duty officer Acting Inspector Sean Lodge said engine failure had caused the emergency landing.



Police and fire crews attend the crash scene this afternoon.

“The pilot was undertaking circuit training when, on his fourth attempt he lost power at 500 feet in the air and was forced to crash-land,” Acting Inspector Lodge said.

“He’s just missed powerlines on the way down, then travelled 200m across the paddock after crash-landing, before hitting a tree stump, which ripped a wing off.

“The pilot’s then kicked a window out and managed to escape injury. No one else was in the plane.”



Police and fire crews at the scene of today’s plane crash near Warnervale Airport.

Rural Fire Service and Fire and Rescue crews were called to the scene and quickly contained a fuel leak.

Emergency services had left the scene by 4pm. Police said civil aviation crash investigators were not required to attend.

The pilot declined to comment about the incident.

Extracted from:

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/central-coast/pilot-forced-to-crashland-light-plane-in-halloran-paddock-after-power-failure/news-story/456593b3697f257c7dc8f2636e7def>

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