



Royal Flying Doctor Service plane skids 500m after wheel collapses on landing at Essendon Airport



Photo: Officials examined the undercarriage of the plane after the wheel collapsed. (ABC News)

Seven people on a Royal Flying Doctors plane experienced a close call when the wheels collapsed and the plane skidded 500 metres along a runway in Melbourne's north-west.

The plane was touching down at Essendon Airport about 6:30pm on Tuesday when the incident happened.

"The pilot said when he landed the wheels were in the down position and as he was taxiing it they collapsed," Commander Guy McRorie from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade said.

"It appears one of the wheels collapsed on impact and it skidded approximately 500 metres before coming to a halt at the crossroads of the runways."

Commander McRorie said the five patients, the pilot and the nurse were not injured.

The exact circumstances about how it happened are still under investigation.

"We were lucky that when the plane did stop it was in its final part of slowing down," he said.

"The pilots are a little bit shaken, they're a little bit perplexed as to why it happened but they're very grateful the plane was able to stop quickly.

"These sorts of things always have the potential for catastrophic events ... sparks flying off the wheel tips, there is always a potential for a fire."

The Royal Flying Doctor Service said it was liaising closely with aviation authorities as they investigated the incident.

In a statement the service said the health, safety and well-being of staff and patients was a top priority.

It said there was also an unrelated incident when one of its planes landed in Moomba, in South Australia on Tuesday.

No one was hurt.

Extracted from:

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