

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FOR RELEASE 6:00AM NOV 27 1974

ISSUED: November 27, 1974

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Forwarded to:  
Honorable Alexander P. Butterfield  
Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
Washington, D. C. 20591  
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SAFETY RECOMMENDATION(S)

A-74-99

The National Transportation Safety Board has investigated several recent aircraft incidents involving "V" band engine exhaust clamp failures on Cessna 300/400 series aircraft.

Three of the most recent incidents involved two T-310 and one 401 model aircraft. In these cases, the failure of a "V" band exhaust clamp precipitated in-flight nacelle fires by allowing exhaust gas heat to transfer through the engine firewall and into the nacelle compartments. Two of the aircraft were extensively damaged by the resulting fire. If these aircraft had been equipped with the optional nacelle fuel tank, the heat transfer could have resulted in uncontrollable fires.

Failures of the "V" band exhaust clamps are not new; the Safety Board is aware that the FAA has issued Airworthiness Directive 72-10-5, which requires a repetitive 50-hour inspection of the engine exhaust systems of these aircraft. Cessna has tried to correct the problem by providing an improved single-piece, interchangeable "V" band exhaust clamp for one location in the exhaust system; however, replacement was not mandatory.

In spite of Airworthiness Directive 72-10-5 and the efforts of the Federal Aviation Administration in the General Aviation Inspection Aids, problems with the "V" band engine exhaust clamps on Cessna 300/400 series aircraft still exist.

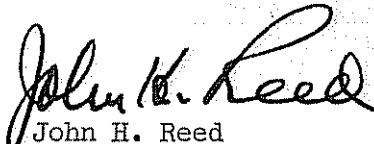
Therefore, the National Transportation Safety Board believes that further corrective action is needed and recommends that the Federal Aviation Administration:

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Issue an Airworthiness Directive to require that the improved, single-piece "V" band clamp be installed on applicable models of Cessna 300/400 series and set a service life for all "V" band clamps.

Representatives of our Bureau of Aviation Safety will be available for consultation in connection with this matter if desired.

REED, Chairman, McADAMS, THAYER, BURGESS, and HALLEY, Members, concurred in the above recommendation.

  
By: John H. Reed  
Chairman

THIS RECOMMENDATION WILL BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC ON THE DATE SHOWN ABOVE. NO PUBLIC DISSEMINATION OF THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD BE MADE PRIOR TO THAT DATE.