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**NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C.**

ISSUED: AUG 26 1982

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Forwarded to:

Honorable J. Lynn Helms  
Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
Washington, D.C. 20591

SAFETY RECOMMENDATION(S)

A-82-99 and -100

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On August 20, 1982, a Fairchild Swearingen Metro Model SA226-TC, N237AM, operating as Air Midwest Flight 908, was landed with the landing gear intentionally retracted at the Kansas City Downtown Airport, Missouri, because the left main landing gear would not extend after repeated unsuccessful attempts at extension, including bouncing the aircraft on the runway. The aircraft was substantially damaged; however, none of the 10 passengers and 2 crewmembers aboard the airplane was injured.

Investigation of the accident revealed that the aft hinge bolt on the left main landing gear door had fallen out of its hinge and bracket which caused the door to jam in the closed position. Since the door was jammed, the landing gear would not extend, so the pilot retracted the other two landing gear and made a gear-up landing.

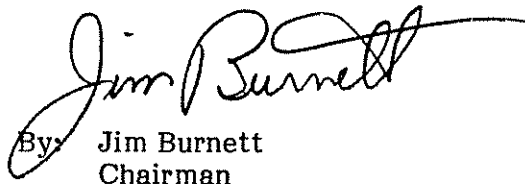
On October 16, 1980, the Swearingen Aviation Corporation issued Service Bulletin (SB) 32-026 which recommended, among other things, replacement of the main landing gear door aft hinge bolts, P/N AN316A, on certain Model SA226 airplanes with a new bolt, P/N AN3H16A. The latter bolt has a drilled head that is to be safety-wired to the hinge bracket to prevent the bolt from backing out of its retaining nut plate. The recommended provisions of the SB had not been complied with on N237AM, and the Safety Board is concerned that other Fairchild Swearingen SA226 model airplanes affected by SB 32-026 also may not have been modified.

Accordingly, and since these airplanes are widely used in commuter airline operations, the National Transportation Safety Board recommends that the Federal Aviation Administration:

Require an immediate inspection of both the fore and aft hinge bolts on the main landing gear doors of Fairchild Swearingen Model SA226 airplanes that are affected by SB 32-026 to verify that the bolts and their retention nut plates are secure. (Class I, Urgent Action) (A-82-99)

Issue an airworthiness directive to require periodic inspection of the main landing gear door aft hinge bolts on Fairchild Swearingen Model SA226 airplanes that are affected by SB 32-026 until the modification prescribed by the service bulletin has been accomplished. In conjunction with the airplane manufacturer, determine whether the need may exist to expand SB 32-026 to require that the forward hinge bolts be safety-wired to their hinge brackets. (Class II, Priority Action) (A-82-100)

BURNETT, Chairman, McADAMS, BURSLEY, and ENGEN, Members, concurred in these recommendations. GOLDMAN, Vice Chairman, did not participate.

  
By: Jim Burnett  
Chairman