



DUTCH  
SAFETY BOARD

# Summary

Fatal aircraft  
accident in low flying  
area Gouda



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## Fatal aircraft accident in low flying area Gouda

*The Hague, August 2019*

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*Photo cover: E. Van Hassel*

## **The Dutch Safety Board**

When accidents or disasters happen, the Dutch Safety Board investigates how it was possible for these to occur, with the aim of learning lessons for the future and, ultimately, improving safety in the Netherlands. The Safety Board is independent and is free to decide which incidents to investigate. In particular, it focuses on situations in which people's personal safety is dependent on third parties, such as the government or companies. In certain cases the Board is under an obligation to carry out an investigation. Its investigations do not address issues of blame or liability.

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N.B. The full report is published in the Dutch language. If there is a difference in interpretation between the Dutch report and English summary, the Dutch text will prevail.

# GENERAL OVERVIEW

Reference number	2018038
Classification	Accident
Date of occurrence	22 May 2018
Time of occurrence	11.29 hours (local time)
Location of occurrence	Low flying area Gouda, near Stolwijk
Aircraft registration	PH-SBM
Aircraft type	Reims Aviation S.A. F172N
Aircraft categorie	Aeroplane, single engine piston
Type of flight	Proficiency check
Phase of flight	En route
Damage to aircraft	Destroyed
Number of crew members	Two
Number of passengers	None
Injuries	Both occupants fatal
Other damage	Damage to trees and pollution of ditch
Light conditions	Daylight

## SUMMARY

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The Reims F172N had taken off from Rotterdam The Hague Airport at 11.17 AM for a proficiency check. On board were the pilot and one pilot examiner. After the aircraft had left the control zone of Rotterdam The Hague Airport on a northeastern heading, it set course for the Gouda low flying area. In the low flying area to the southwest of Stolwijk, the aircraft made a maneuver that caused it to lose altitude very quickly. In the course of this maneuver, the aircraft came into contact with several trees, causing the left wing to detach. After some 200 metres, the aircraft hit the ground. Both occupants died in the accident. The aircraft was completely destroyed.

The accident was caused by the aircraft entering vertical flight at a low altitude and the pilots not being able to make a recovery maneuver that would have allowed the aircraft to return timely from vertical to horizontal flight. It could not be established with certainty what caused the aircraft to go into vertical flight. Whilst executing the recovery maneuver, the aircraft's left wing struck a number of trees. A crash could not be avoided at this point.



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