

# AAIB Report: G-BOSN, Engine fire shortly after lifted to hover, Hedsor, Buckinghamshire, 2 March 2021

## News story

Whilst hovering, smoke was observed coming from the engine exhaust of an Airbus Helicopters AS355 F1. After landing a fire was also observed and a fire warning subsequently illuminated, leading the pilot to activate the fire extinguishing system, 2 March 2021.



Whilst hovering at 20 ft above ground level, smoke was observed coming from the engine exhaust of an Airbus Helicopters AS355 F1. The pilot was informed and the helicopter landed immediately. After landing a fire was also observed, a fire warning subsequently illuminated, and the pilot activated the fire extinguishing system. The pilot completed the shutdown checks and exited the helicopter. There were no injuries.

The fire was determined to have been caused by the loss of retention of the right engine inboard exhaust nozzle, which was released because of the failure of its securing clamp. The released nozzle had blocked the overboard exhaust outlet and allowed hot exhaust gases to impinge on the engine cowlings leading to local overheating.

The clamp failure was attributed to a combination of an incorrect locking washer being fitted during maintenance and elevated engine vibration which caused the clamp to loosen. A crack then propagated in low-load high-cycle fatigue until final rupture of the clamp.

As a result of this investigation the helicopter manufacturer is taking safety action to amend the Aircraft Maintenance Manual (AMM) highlighting the correct installation of the clamp.

[Read the report.](#)

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