



RECREATIONAL AVIATION AUSTRALIA INC

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> October 2014

## RECREATIONAL AIRCRAFT AIRWORTHINESS NOTICE

AIRWORTHINESS NOTICE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 24102014

### **AIRCRAFT RE-FUELLING PRACTICES. SAFETY ACTION.**

**To:** All owners and operators of Recreational Aircraft.

**Background:** A recent accident whilst refuelling an aircraft with jerry cans has resulted in the person sustaining serious burns to arms, hands and face.

Over the preceding 2 years RA-Aus has received reports of three refueling flash fires involving weight shift aircraft and one report involving a 3 axis aircraft.

**Action Required: During refuelling with jerry cans**

#### **Safety Action:**

- *The aircraft and jerry can should be commonly bonded to dissipate static electricity which can accumulate during the refuelling process.*
- *Aircraft must be refuelled well clear of hangars and away from other aircraft. Closed hangars may create a situation where the combination of air and fuel vapours become very explosive.*
- *Try to ensure a fire extinguisher is available.*
- *Portable electronic devices should be switched off (Mobile phones, radios).*
- *If a spill occurs, refuelling should be stopped immediately until the spillage is contained.*
- *Members are directed to CAO 20.9 for acceptable refuelling practices.*
- *Refuelling may not be conducted with passengers aboard the aircraft.*

#### **Reports and Recording.**

If any refuelling is being observed or conducted without appropriate bonding, the operations should be suspended immediately. We share a responsibility to ensure all refuelling is conducted in a safe manner.

Darren Barnfield

Technical Manager

**Defect Reporting is one of the primary ways we have in ensuring continued safety in our operations.**