

Flight Safety Information!

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Skyline Aviation in Holland is operating L-39's since 1996. Some month ago we had a narrow escape when at low altitude the bleed air pipe for the engine intake heating system exploded. The full blowing bleed air reduced power so such that the plane had almost no more climbing power. It happened at the end of a mission, so at low all up weight. At full fuel the plane probably would not have been able to stay up.

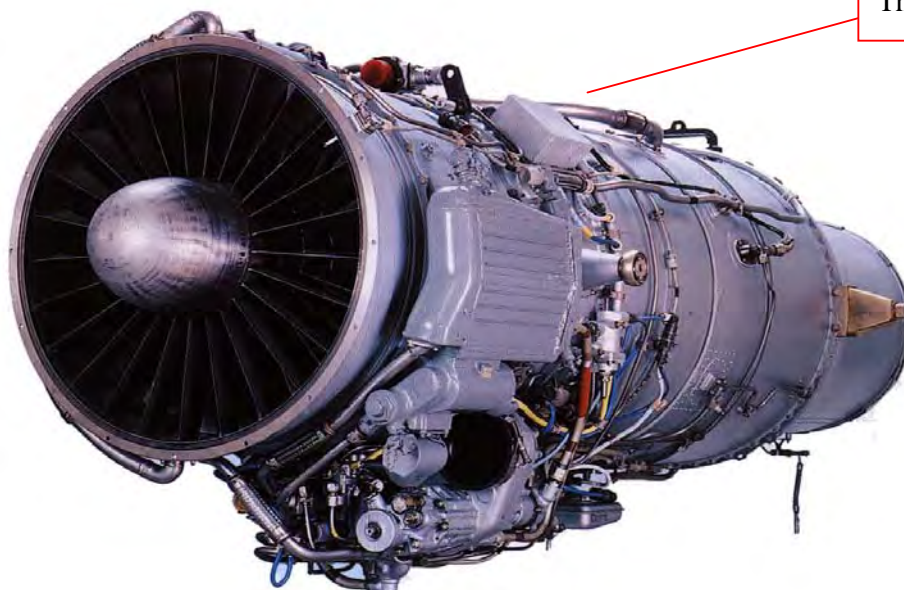
The pipe bust open at a position before the control valve at a welding point where the two small pressure / heating pipes to the Fuel Control Unit are connected each side. Probably a crack must have developed in the welding at the underside until it burst open, blowing a hole in the control rod fairing above it. I cannot upload pictures here but willing to mail those to anyone interested. I advise to check this area using mirror and light for cracks and let me know if anyone else has experienced the same so we should recommend to make it a mandatory inspection point.

Alex van Hoevell"

Thanks to Alex for providing this Information!!!!

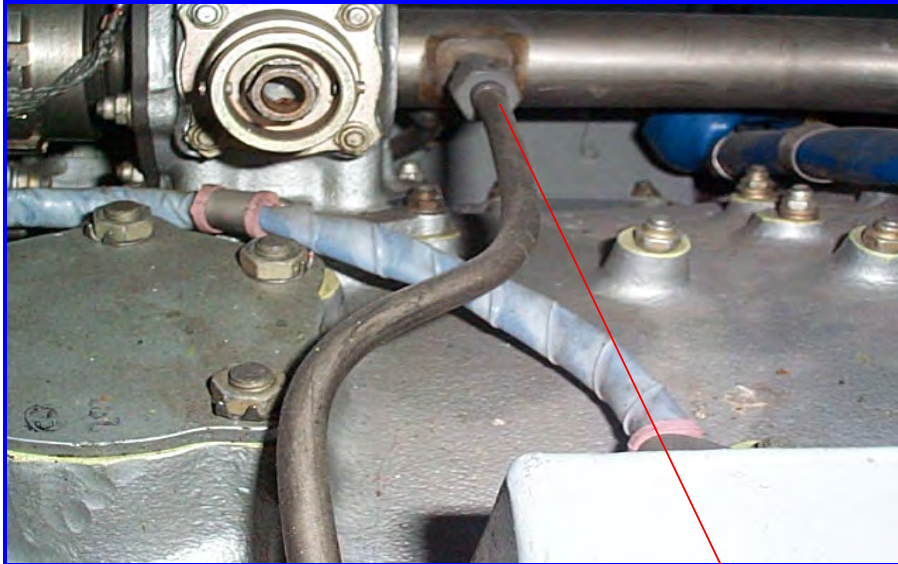
I was requested by Mr. Don Keating to make this information available to all L-39 Enthusiasts! The inspections above, as suggested by Alex should be carried out, prior to the next flight! The inspection should be completed with a strip of thin paper, which you or your mechanic should hold around the pipe at 1 inch distance during an engine run up. Just to discover any airflow caused by a crack or a hole in the welding / soldering area. Don't touch the line – This is very hot!!! (Please read my old News Letter August 2003 about melted engine cables – it's the same pipe!

Where to look for it :

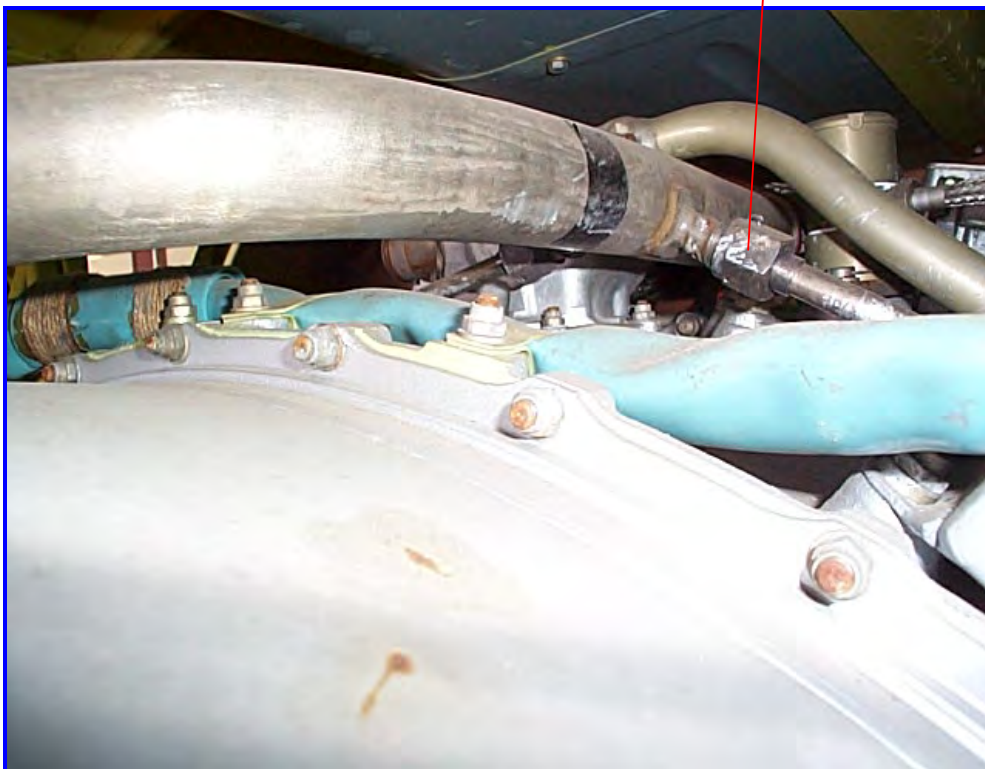


That's the pipe!

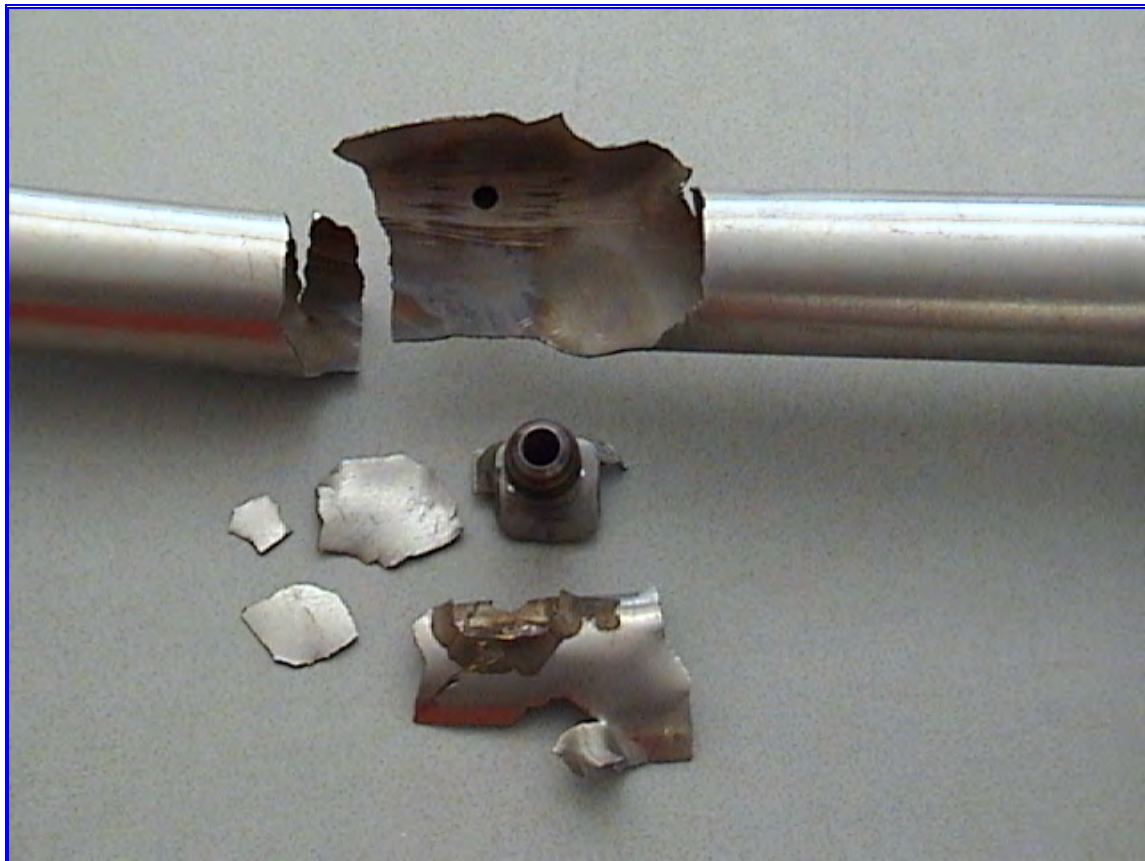
On top of the engine - left side!

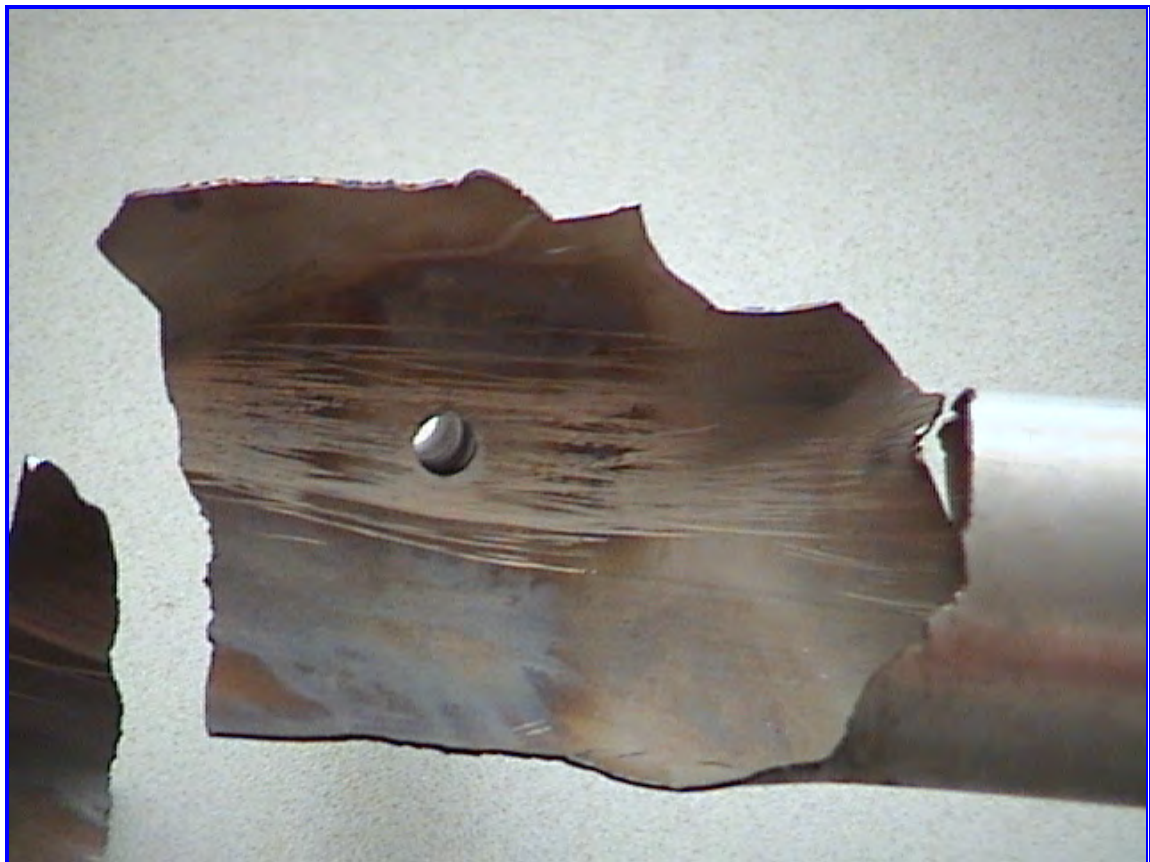


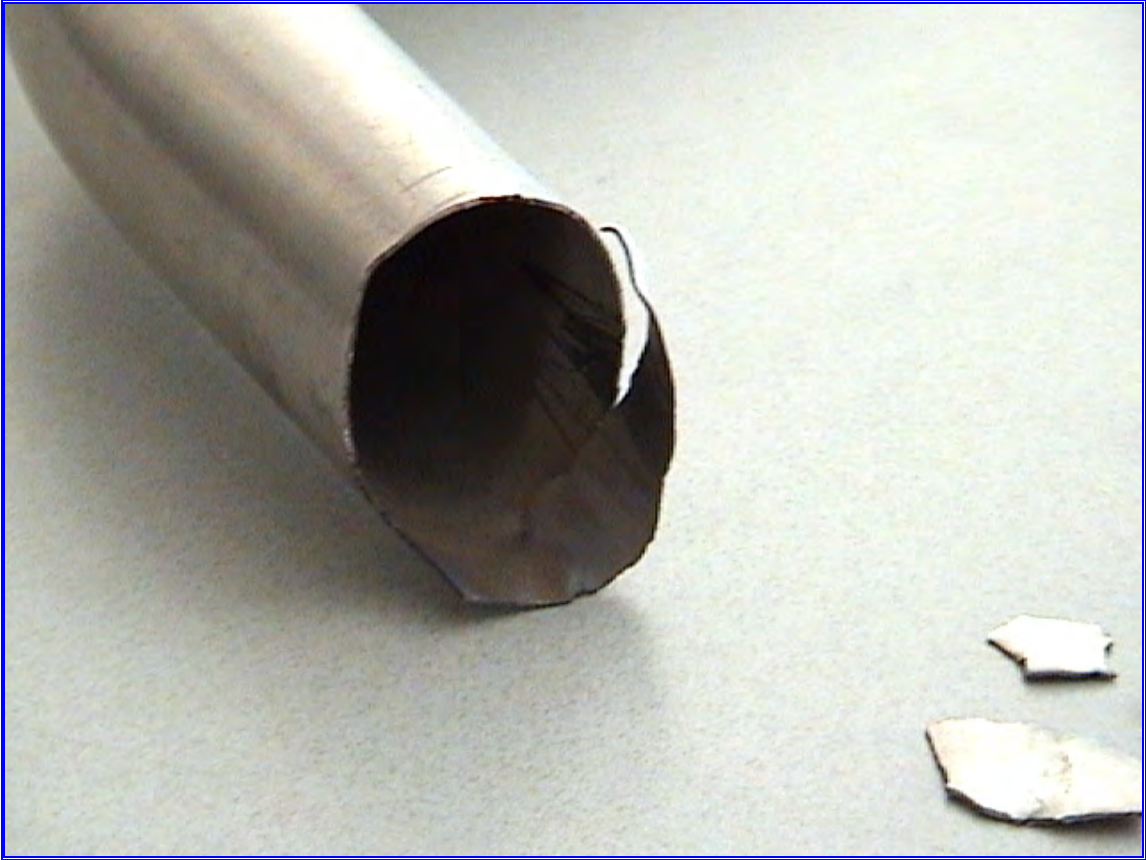
and from the rear - right side



Here it is as it was found after the flight :







We will come up with the full report in a couple days in our February News Letter. The download is possible on the coming weekend on from our Web Site; www.aero-contact.com > Aircraft > L-39 > Customer Information's > Bulletins

Ivchenko-Progress was informed and requested for advice!

Regards

Bernd