

AMD-35
(06/08)



Department of the Interior Aviation Lessons Learned



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1 of 2

Subject: Aircraft Accident Lessons Learned

Area of Concern: Aviat Husky A-1B wing covers and fuel vents

Distribution: All Husky users

Discussion: Improper use and removal of the Husky wing cover can result in damage to the fuel vents. Even moderate bending of these fuel vents can result in flight control restriction.



Photo A

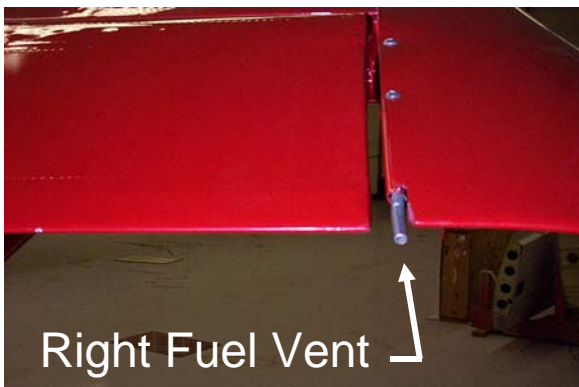


Photo B



Photo C

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Husky wing covers are form-fit to slip over the wing tip and are secured with straps under the wing. The covers are usually made of medium weight nylon. Older wing covers only have small holes for the fuel vents, whereas newer wing covers have a velcro reinforced slit which allows the fuel vents to extend through the cover.

Husky fuel vents are located parallel to the outside edge of the ailerons toward the wingtip and extend past the training edge of the wing by 1-2 inches. On page 1, photo A shows the location of the fuel vent on the left wing. Photos B and C are close-up photos of the fuel vent on the right wing.



Wing cover installed on Husky

After removing the Husky wing cover, or even after a strong wind event, check to ensure that the fuel vents have not been bent. If they have been bent, they could interfere with the ailerons and prohibit the movement of control surfaces. Even a slight bend narrows an already small gap between the vent and the aileron.

Another problem associated with Husky fuel vents is that insects often crawl into them. The fuel vent lines then become clogged causing fuel starvation in flight. Because the vent system is a dual system, one vent line can be clogged and the system will still vent. However, if both vent lines are clogged fuel starvation may occur.

LESSONS LEARNED:

On February 26, 2009, SAFECOM 09-0110 was submitted as a safety reminder to Husky operators using wing covers in northern climates. While performing a detailed preflight and flight control check, a pilot identified bent fuel vent tubes described in the SAFECOM. As a result, the situation was corrected before a mishap occurred. Well done to that NPS pilot for his professionalism and attention to detail.

/s/ Robert Galloway
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