

## Autogyro MTO Sport - the importance of performing maintenance inspections

### SAFETY ALERT

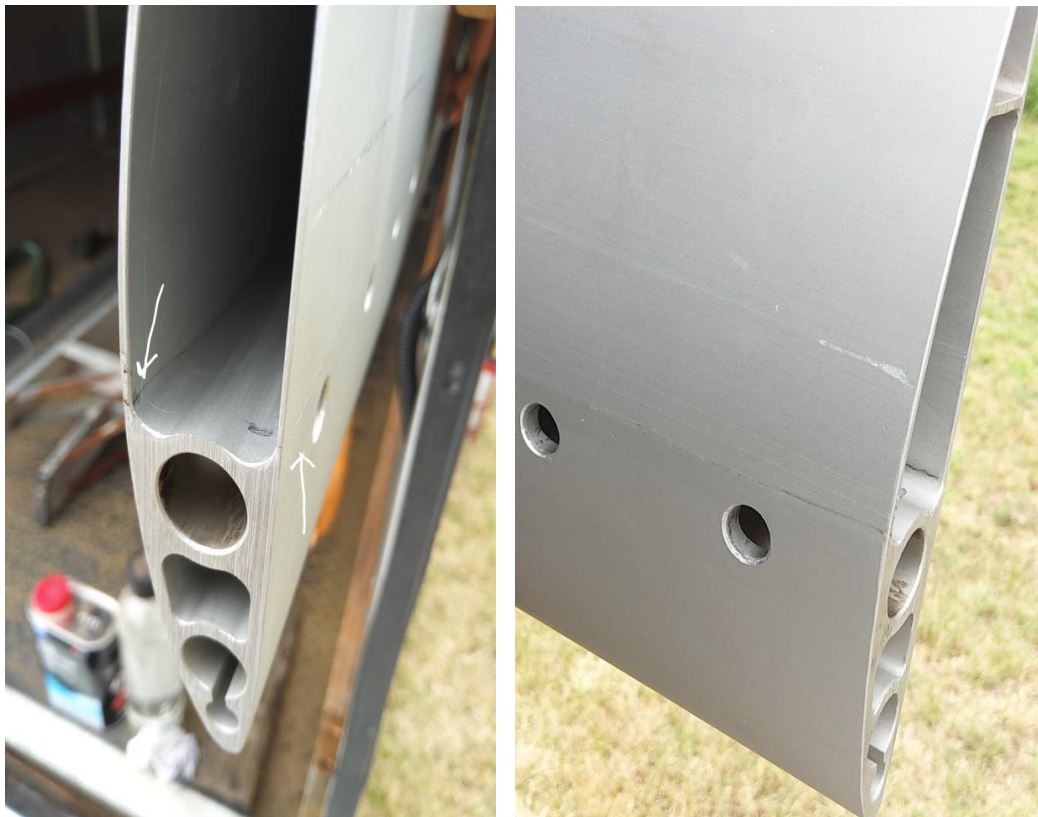
During a scheduled maintenance inspection a hairline fracture was discovered in the root of an Autogyro rotor blade. The fracture is approximately 50mm long and runs parallel with the internal spar of the rotor blade and is visible on the upper and underside of the blade.

The fracture does not appear to emanate or terminate at a blade bolt hole. As the fracture was covered by the hub bar strap Autogyro can only emphasise the importance of their periodic inspection protocol.

The blades have logged 1010 hours and were fitted in May, 2013. Images of the fracture were sent to Autogyro Germany for analysis. As well as requesting an Incident Report from the pilot, Autogyro Germany issued the following reply;

**“Most likely cause is rough field operations, possibly with a tight tie-down. It is taxi induced damage, not flight damage”.**

This analysis is consistent with the type and locations in which the gyro has operated from for many years. Minor contact with a tree prior to the fracture being discovered may have also contributed to the damaged blade.



**Autogyro Australia.  
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