



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	JACKSON, TN	Accident Number:	ATL91LA172
Date & Time:	09/11/1991, 1902 CDT	Registration:	N13DT
Aircraft:	CESSNA 401	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Serious, 2 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE PILOT HAD CANCELLED HIS IFR FLIGHT PLAN, AND WAS PROCEEDING TO THE AIRPORT VISUALLY. DURING HIS APPROACH, THE LEFT ENGINE QUIT, FOLLOWED BY THE RIGHT ENGINE. HE THEN REALIZED THAT HE HAD FAILED TO SWITCH FROM THE AUXILIARY FUEL TANKS TO THE MAIN FUEL TANKS PRIOR TO THE APPROACH, AND EXHAUSTED THE AUXILIARY FUEL SUPPLY. WITH INSUFFICIENT ALTITUDE TO ATTEMPT A RESTART, HE FORCE LANDED THE AIRPLANE IN A BEAN FIELD SHORT OF THE AIRPORT. AFTER THE AIRPLANE CAME TO A STOP, THE OCCUPANTS EGRESSED, AND THE FUSELAGE WAS CONSUMED IN A POST-CRASH FIRE.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT'S FAILURE TO SELECT THE MAIN FUEL TANKS PRIOR TO THE APPROACH, RESULTING IN FUEL STARVATION AND ENGINE STOPPAGE.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - NONMECHANICAL
Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - FINAL APPROACH

Findings

1. ALL ENGINES
 2. (C) FLUID,FUEL - STARVATION
 3. (C) FUEL TANK SELECTOR POSITION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Occurrence #3: ON GROUND/WATER ENCOUNTER WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	55, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	08/26/1991
Occupational Pilot:	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:		
Flight Time:	1681 hours (Total, all aircraft), 659 hours (Total, this make and model), 1681 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N13DT
Model/Series:	401 401	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:		Serial Number:	4010247
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	6500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	0 Hours	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	TSIO-520
Registered Owner:	MONTAGUE BUILDING COMPANY, INC	Rated Power:	300 hp
Operator:	MONTAGUE, HARVEY L.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Dusk
Observation Facility, Elevation:	MKL, 433 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	1 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1854 CDT	Direction from Accident Site:	110°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Thin Broken / 25000 ft agl	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	310°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	30° C / -18° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	RALEIGH, NC (5W5)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1700 EDT	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	MCKELLAR FIELD (MKL)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	433 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	11	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3540 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Straight-in

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	On-Ground
Total Injuries:	1 Serious, 2 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	RALPH E HICKS, JR.	Report Date:	03/24/1993
Additional Participating Persons:	DICK WIELAND; MEMPHIS, TN		
Publish Date:			
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at pubinq@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).