



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	SHELBYVILLE, TX	Accident Number:	FTW99LA059
Date & Time:	01/01/1999, 1705 CST	Registration:	N234CG
Aircraft:	Cessna 421C	Injuries:	4 Minor, 1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

During a precautionary landing following a loss of electrical power, the pilot turned the airplane to avoid colliding with a pickup truck, and the airplane impacted trees. The pilot reported that while IMC, at 14,000 feet msl, he started preparing for ice penetration and turned on the two propeller anti-ice switches. The right propeller anti-icing circuit breaker popped, and when the circuit breaker was reset, the airplane experienced a total electrical failure. The pilot initiated an emergency descent, and entered into VFR conditions at about 1,500 feet. After about 30 minutes of trying to locate an airport, with it getting dark and thunderstorms in the area, the pilot elected to land on a narrow road with trees on both sides. Testing of the alternator system revealed discrepancies with the left alternator, both voltage regulators, and the right alternator out sensor.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The total failure of the aircraft's electrical system. Factors were the thunderstorms, the dusk light condition, and the lack of suitable terrain for the precautionary landing.

Findings

Occurrence #1: AIRFRAME/COMPONENT/SYSTEM FAILURE/MALFUNCTION
Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

Findings

1. (C) ELECTRICAL SYSTEM,ALTERNATOR - FAILURE
2. (C) ELECTRICAL SYSTEM,VOLTAGE REGULATOR - FAILURE
3. ANNUNCIATOR PANEL LIGHT(S) - NOT ACTIVATED

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

4. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - THUNDERSTORM
5. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DUSK
6. PRECAUTIONARY LANDING - INITIATED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #3: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: LANDING

Findings

- 7. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - NONE SUITABLE
- 8. OBJECT - VEHICLE
- 9. OBJECT - TREE(S)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport; Commercial	Age:	77
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane; Helicopter
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Single-engine
Flight Time:	15119 hours (Total, all aircraft), 290 hours (Total, this make and model), 15000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 49 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 18 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N234CG
Model/Series:	421C 421C	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Operator:	METRO REDEVELOPMENT, INC.	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	GTSIO-520-L1B
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Dusk
Observation Facility, Elevation:	OCH, 355 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 3700 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots / , 140°
Temperature:	18° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	NEW ORLEANS, LA (NEW)	Destination:	OMAHA, NE (MLE)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	4 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): DOUGLAS D WIGINGTON

Adopted Date: 06/22/2000

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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