



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	MONTGOMERY, NY	Accident Number:	BFO94LA084
Date & Time:	06/02/1994, 1610 EDT	Registration:	N9041P
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-24-260	Injuries:	1 Minor, 1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

The instructor and student had completed instrument instruction and afterwards, the student, who was a private pilot, requested and they practiced crosswind landings. According to the instructor 'I was distracted by his performance and remiss in verification of fuel status in execution of before landing checklist. Power was lost on climbout. Additional check futile. Committed to off-field landing. Damage occurred on rollout through a ditch in terrain.' The FAA examined the airplane and revealed the left fuel tank was empty. An undetermined amount of fuel was in the right tank.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's mismanagement of the fuel supply with an improper fuel selector position which resulted in fuel starvation and the loss of engine power. A factor is the instructor's inadequate supervision of the flight.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - NONMECHANICAL
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. FLUID,FUEL - STARVATION
 2. (C) FUEL TANK SELECTOR POSITION - IMPROPER - DUAL STUDENT
 3. (F) SUPERVISION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND(CFI)
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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

Findings

4. TERRAIN CONDITION - DITCH

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	41
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	Instrument Airplane
Flight Time:	990 hours (Total, all aircraft), 3 hours (Total, this make and model), 972 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 30 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N9041P
Model/Series:	PA-24-260 PA-24-260	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	QUADE'S FLIGHT SCHOOL	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	IO-540-D4B5
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Unknown
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 6500 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	15 knots / 24 knots, 310°
Temperature:	14°C	Visibility	40 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	(MGJ)	Destination:	, NY (MGJ)

Airport Information

Airport:	ORANGE COUNTY AIRPORT (MGJ)	Runway Surface Type:	
Runway Used:	26	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Length/Width:	3672 ft / 100 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): RICHARD V CHILDRESS, Adopted Date: 10/16/1995

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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