



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	LANCASTER, CA	Accident Number:	LAX95LA070
Date & Time:	01/01/1995, 1710 PST	Registration:	N200AW
Aircraft:	AERO COMMANDER 200D	Injuries:	1 Fatal, 2 Serious, 1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE PILOT AND HIS THREE PASSENGERS WERE ON A CROSS-COUNTRY FLIGHT WHEN THEY EXPERIENCED A LOSS OF ENGINE POWER. THE PILOT WAS ATTEMPTING A FORCED LANDING ON A ROAD WHEN A CAR GOT IN THE WAY. THE PILOT THEN SET UP TO LAND IN A DESERT AREA ADJACENT TO THE ROAD. THE AIRCRAFT LANDED HARD AND SHEARED OFF THE LANDING GEAR. A FAA INSPECTOR FOUND THAT THE FUEL SELECTOR VALVE WAS POSITIONED TO A FUEL TANK THAT WAS EMPTY. THE OTHER THREE FUEL TANKS WERE FULL OF FUEL. THE FUEL PUMP FUNCTIONED NORMALLY WHEN ACTIVATED WITH AIRCRAFT BATTERY POWER, AND THE FUEL SELECTOR WAS POSITIONED TO A TANK CONTAINING FUEL. NO FUEL WAS FOUND IN THE FUEL LINES FROM THE FIREWALL TO THE FUEL PUMP. THE ENGINE WAS REMOVED FROM THE AIRCRAFT AND INSTALLED IN A TEST CELL. THE ENGINE STARTED WITHOUT HESITATION AND WAS EXERCISED THROUGHOUT ITS NORMAL POWER RANGE.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: fuel starvation due to the pilot's failure to select a tank containing fuel.

Findings

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

Findings

1. (C) FLUID,FUEL - STARVATION
 2. (C) FUEL MANAGEMENT - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
 3. (C) FUEL SUPPLY - NOT SELECTED - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY DESCENT/LANDING

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	63
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	450 hours (Total, all aircraft), 5 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	AERO COMMANDER	Registration:	N200AW
Model/Series:	200D 200D	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	DAVID L. WHITE	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	IO-520-A
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	WJF, 2347 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 25000 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots / , 70°
Temperature:	9° C	Visibility	40 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	APPLE VALLEY, CA (APV)	Destination:	ROSAMOND, CA (L00)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	2 Serious, 1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	JEFF RICH	Adopted Date:	08/31/1995
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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