



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	LONGMONT, CO	Accident Number:	FTW96LA158
Date & Time:	04/01/1996, 1449 MST	Registration:	N84PS
Aircraft:	STAFFORD RV-4	Injuries:	2 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

Upon arriving at the destination airport from a local cross country flight, the pilot performed three touch and go landings. While on the crosswind leg of the fourth pattern circuit, which was to culminate in a full stop landing, the engine lost power and the pilot made an emergency landing in a plowed field. During the landing roll, one main landing gear collapsed and the airplane nosed over. The flight originated with 11 gallons of fuel on board, and the duration of the flight was 54 minutes. According to the pertinent Lycoming engine chart, the fuel consumption at 75 percent power (2,450 rpm) is 10.5 gallons per hour. A review of the pilot's aero/medical data revealed him to be non-current in flight proficiency and medical certification.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the pilot's inadequate preflight planning and preparation in that he failed to ensure the aircraft had sufficient fuel to complete the flight. A factor was the soft terrain.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER

Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - BASE LEG/BASE TO FINAL

Findings

1. (C) FLUID,FUEL - EXHAUSTION
2. (C) PREFLIGHT PLANNING/PREPARATION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. LACK OF CERTIFICATION - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. LACK OF RECENT EXPERIENCE - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING

Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY DESCENT/LANDING

Occurrence #3: MAIN GEAR COLLAPSED

Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

5. TERRAIN CONDITION - OPEN FIELD
6. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - SOFT
7. LANDING GEAR,MAIN GEAR - OVERLOAD

Occurrence #4: NOSE OVER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	51
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	666 hours (Total, all aircraft), 490 hours (Total, this make and model), 640 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	STAFFORD	Registration:	N84PS
Model/Series:	RV-4 RV-4	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	WILLIAM J. MANSFIELD	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-360-A1D
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:	2V2, 5052 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	8 knots / , 70°
Temperature:	22° C	Visibility	0 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	GREELEY, CO (GXY)	Destination:	(2V2)

Airport Information

Airport:	VANCE BRAND (2V2)	Runway Surface Type:	Concrete
Runway Used:	11	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	5130 ft / 75 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): NORMAN F WIEMEYER

Adopted Date: 07/17/1996

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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