



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	FLORENCE, SC	Accident Number:	MIA97LA055
Date & Time:	01/01/1997, 1505 EST	Registration:	N2205Z
Aircraft:	Piper PA-28-181	Injuries:	3 Serious, 1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot was cleared for an instrument approach in instrument flight conditions. The right fuel gauge indicated empty, and the left fuel gauge indicated about 3 gallons of fuel. The engine started to sputter and quit. The airplane became VFR and collided with trees and a house. The pilot informed law enforcement personnel that the airplane ran out of fuel. There was no odor or visible evidence of fuel present at the crash site. About 1/2 ounce of fuel was drained from the carburetor bowl. The propeller and flywheel were replaced. The engine started and developed power.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot-in-command's improper management of fuel resulting in a total loss of engine power due to fuel exhaustion.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - NONMECHANICAL
Phase of Operation: APPROACH - FAF/OUTER MARKER TO THRESHOLD (IFR)

Findings

1. (C) FLUID,FUEL - EXHAUSTION
2. (C) FUEL MANAGEMENT - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY DESCENT/LANDING

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY DESCENT/LANDING

Findings

3. OBJECT - TREE(S)
4. TERRAIN CONDITION - RESIDENTIAL AREA

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	49
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine
Flight Time:	2050 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1530 hours (Total, this make and model), 1907 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 73 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 32 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N2205Z
Model/Series:	PA-28-181 PA-28-181	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	THOMAS M. SNEDDEN	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-360-A4M
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Witness
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 500 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	8 knots / , 40°
Temperature:	8° C	Visibility	5 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	MIAMI, FL (MIA)	Destination:	(FLO)

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	CARROL A SMITH	Adopted Date:	08/25/1997
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 pubin@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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