



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	MASON, MI	Accident Number:	CHI99LA044
Date & Time:	12/01/1998, 1650 EST	Registration:	N36700
Aircraft:	Piper PA-28-181	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported the engine lost power while in the traffic pattern after having flown two hours. The airplane was landed in a field during which time the right main landing gear collapsed. Post accident inspection revealed the left fuel tank was full of fuel and the right fuel tank was empty. A post accident test run of the engine failed to reveal any anomalies. The pilot reported that he did not switch fuel tanks in a timely manner during the flight.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the pilot's inattention to fuel management in that he failed to switch fuel tanks in a timely manner which resulted in fuel starvation. A factor related to the accident was the low altitude at which the loss of engine power occurred.

Findings

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

Findings

1. (C) FLUID,FUEL - STARVATION
 2. (C) FUEL MANAGEMENT - INATTENTIVE - PILOT IN COMMAND
 3. (C) FUEL TANK SELECTOR POSITION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY DESCENT/LANDING

Findings

4. (F) ALTITUDE - LOW - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #3: MAIN GEAR COLLAPSED
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

5. LANDING GEAR,MAIN GEAR - OVERLOAD

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	44
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	143 hours (Total, all aircraft), 5 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N36700
Model/Series:	PA-28-181 PA-28-181	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	AEROGENESIS FLT TRAINING ACDMY	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-360
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:	TEW, 919 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	4 knots / , 210°
Temperature:	11° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	MUSKEGON, MI (MKG)	Destination:	(TEW)

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	PAMELA S SULLIVAN	Adopted Date:	02/16/2001
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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