



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

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<b>Location:</b>	CHARLESTON, SC	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ATL92LA052
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	03/01/1992, 1614 EST	<b>Registration:</b>	N6748U
<b>Aircraft:</b>	MOONEY M20C	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

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## Analysis

THE PILOT ATTEMPTED TO CHANGE FUEL TANKS, AFTER HE EXPERIENCED A LOSS OF ENGINE POWER. THE ENGINE REGAINED POWER FOR A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME, AND THEN LOST POWER AGAIN. THE PILOT EXECUTED AN EMERGENCY LANDING IN A GROUP OF SMALL TREES. EXAMINATION OF THE AIRCRAFT REVEALED THAT THE RIGHT WING FUEL TANK WAS EMPTY, AND THE LEFT FUEL TANK WAS APPROXIMATELY ONE FOURTH FULL. FURTHER EXAMINATION REVEALED THAT THE LEFT WING TANK FUEL VENT WAS BLOCKED BY NESTING DIRT DAUBERS, AND AIR COULD NOT BE FORCED THROUGH THE VENT.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:  
THE BLOCKED FUEL VENT.

## Findings

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Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - MECH FAILURE/MALF  
Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

### Findings

1. (C) FUEL SYSTEM, VENT - BLOCKED(TOTAL)

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

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Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

### Findings

2. OBJECT - TREE(S)

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Occurrence #4: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	55, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine Land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 3 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	09/09/1991
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>		
<b>Flight Time:</b>	683 hours (Total, all aircraft), 660 hours (Total, this make and model), 583 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 40 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 16 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	MOONEY	<b>Registration:</b>	N6748U
<b>Model/Series:</b>	M20C M20C	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	No
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	2470
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Retractable - Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	3
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	08/08/1991, Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	2525 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	136 Hours	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	4192 Hours	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-360
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	HANNON, FRED W.	<b>Rated Power:</b>	180 hp
<b>Operator:</b>	HANNON, FRED W.	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	CHS, 46 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	15 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1550 EST	Direction from Accident Site:	250°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Visibility	15 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	14 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	180°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	23° C / 4° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	BAYBORO, NC (7NCO)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	MT. PLEASANT, SC (855)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1450 EST	Type of Airspace:	Class G

## 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
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Roff H Sasser	Report Date:	08/13/1993
Additional Participating Persons:	LEWIS W BLACKWELL; COLUMBIA, SC		
Publish Date:			
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 <a href="mailto:pubinquiry@ntsb.gov">pubinquiry@ntsb.gov</a> , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/</a> .		

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The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).