



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	CHARLESTON, SC	Accident Number:	ATL92LA052
Date & Time:	03/01/1992, 1614 EST	Registration:	N6748U
Aircraft:	MOONEY M20C	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

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

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

Findings

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

Findings

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

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

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

Findings

2. OBJECT - TREE(S)

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

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	55
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	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

Aircraft Make:	MOONEY	Registration:	N6748U
Model/Series:	M20C M20C	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	HANNON, FRED W.	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-360
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Business		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	CHS, 46 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	14 knots / , 180°
Temperature:	23° C	Visibility	15 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	BAYBORO, NC (7NCO)	Destination:	MT. PLEASANT, SC (8S5)

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):	Roff H Sasser	Adopted Date:	08/13/1993
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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