



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	WAMIC, OR	Accident Number:	SEA91LA072
Date & Time:	04/01/1991, 1330 PST	Registration:	N7119W
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-28-180	Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

SHORTLY AFTER TAKEOFF, THE ENGINE SURGED AND LOST POWER. THE PILOT MADE A LEFT TURN TO LAND ON A TAXIWAY AND CONTACTED THE LEFT WING FIRST ON THE GROUND. POST CRASH INSPECTION OF THE WRECKAGE REVEALED THAT THE LEFT FUEL TANK WAS FULL WHILE THE RIGHT FUEL TANK WAS EMPTY OF FUEL. THE FUEL SELECTOR WAS FOUND POSITIONED TO THE RIGHT FUEL TANK.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT'S SELECTION OF AN EMPTY FUEL TANK FOR TAKEOFF.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. (C) FLUID,FUEL - STARVATION
2. (C) FUEL TANK SELECTOR POSITION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND

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

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

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	71
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	
Flight Time:	4572 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N7119W
Model/Series:	PA-28-180 PA-28-180	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	WILLIS L. DRIVER	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-360-A3A
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:	DLS, 243 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	16 knots / , 310°
Temperature:	-18°C	Visibility	30 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:		Destination:	REDMOND, OR (RDM)

Airport Information

Airport:	KENNEDY	Runway Surface Type:	Gravel
Runway Used:	26	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	2400 ft / 21 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Debra J Eckrote	Adopted Date:	03/24/1993
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident docket 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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