



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	SIEBERT, CO	Accident Number:	DEN92LA011
Date & Time:	12/01/1991, 2030 MST	Registration:	N3745A
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-22-135	Injuries:	1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

DURING CRUISE FLIGHT, THE RIGHT FUEL TANK RAN DRY AND THE ENGINE QUIT RUNNING. THE PILOT SWITCHED TO THE LEFT TANK, BUT THE ENGINE WOULD NOT RESTART, DUE TO THE VENT IN THE TANK FILLER CAP BEING PLUGGED. A FORCED LANDING WAS MADE TO ROUGH UP SLOPE TERRAIN IN LOW LIGHT CONDITIONS. DURING THE LANDING, THE LANDING GEAR COLLAPSED AND THE AIRCRAFT FLIPPED OVER.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: TOTAL LOSS OF ENGINE POWER DUE TO A PLUGGED VENT IN THE TANK FILLER CAP, RESULTING IN FUEL STARVATION. FACTORS RELATED TO THE ACCIDENT WERE: DARKNESS AND THE LACK OF SUITABLE TERRAIN FOR A FORCED LANDING.

Findings

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

Findings

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

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

Occurrence #3: NOSE OVER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

3. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
4. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - NONE SUITABLE

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	50
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	
Flight Time:	473 hours (Total, all aircraft), 473 hours (Total, this make and model), 12 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 12 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N3745A
Model/Series:	PA-22-135 PA-22-135	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	BOLTON, CHRIS A. / JEANNE C.	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-290-D2
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Pilot
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	18 knots / , 295°
Temperature:	-18°C	Visibility	25 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	MEDFORD, OR (OK68)	Destination:	FT COLLINS, CO (FNL)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	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):	NORMAN F WIEMEYER	Adopted Date:	05/27/1993
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 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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