



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	WORTH, IL	Accident Number:	CHI01LA030
Date & Time:	11/01/2000, 1600 CST	Registration:	N169DM
Aircraft:	Aviat PITTS S-2B	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The airplane impacted the terrain following a loss of engine power. The pilot reported that he performed a preflight of the airplane with the exception of verifying a chart used to keep track of the fuel on board. According to the pilot he thought there were 19 gallons of fuel on board, however, 15.2 gallons of the fuel were used on a previous flight. He reported, "...I misread that part of the calculation." Fuel exhaustion occurred about 20 minutes after takeoff while at an altitude of 1,050 feet above the ground. The pilot reported "Approximately 22 seconds later I impacted the ground with a 75' landing distance, measured using step method. A/C did not roll or tumble, but I was able to keep it upright through the impact. The speed of impact was approximately 110 mph as I had to avoid a bridge and set it down immediately." He reported on the form that the accident could have been prevented "By thorough ground, physical, preflight. Do not use a chart, without actual in sight ck. of fuel levels."

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's inadequate preflight of the airplane and his failure to verify the fuel supply on board, which resulted in fuel exhaustion. Factors associated with the accident were the low altitude at which the power loss occurred and the lack of suitable terrain given the low altitude.

Findings

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

Findings

1. (C) FLUID,FUEL - EXHAUSTION
2. (C) AIRCRAFT PREFLIGHT - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) FUEL SUPPLY - NOT VERIFIED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING

Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY DESCENT/LANDING

Findings

4. (F) ALTITUDE - LOW
5. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - NONE SUITABLE

Occurrence #3: ON GROUND/WATER ENCOUNTER WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY LANDING

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	63
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	3485 hours (Total, all aircraft), 145 hours (Total, this make and model), 20 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Aviat	Registration:	N169DM
Model/Series:	PITTS S-2B PITTS S-2B	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	ALFRED R. JUDD	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	IO-540
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:	MDW, 620 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 25000 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	12 knots / , 150°
Temperature:	72 °C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	KANKAKEE, IL (IKK)	Destination:	

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:	10/23/2001
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 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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agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

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