



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Callaway, NE	Accident Number:	CHI01LA263
Date & Time:	08/02/2001, 1205 CDT	Registration:	N4478Y
Aircraft:	Piper PA-25-235	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Analysis

The airplane sustained substantial damage during a forced landing to a cornfield after a loss of engine power. The pilot reported he, "... left the airport without fueling the airplane. Made a forced landing in a cornfield. The cornfield was the only available spot." The pilot reported the cornfield was muddy.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: Fuel exhaustion due to the pilot's inadequate preflight. Contributing to the accident was the muddy field and the unsuitable terrain encountered during the forced landing.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - AERIAL APPLICATION

Findings

1. (C) FUEL SYSTEM - EXHAUSTION
 2. (C) AIRCRAFT PREFLIGHT - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
 3. (C) UNSUITABLE TERRAIN OR TAKEOFF/LANDING/TAXI AREA - ENCOUNTERED - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY DESCENT/LANDING

Findings

4. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - MUDDY

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	48
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine
Flight Time:	5400 hours (Total, all aircraft), 3400 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N4478Y
Model/Series:	PA-25-235	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Johnie Witthuhn	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Operating Certificate(s) Held:		Engine Model/Series:	O-540
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	
Observation Facility, Elevation:	BBW, 2547 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	9 knots / , 130°
Temperature:	29° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Calloway, NE	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):	Jim Silliman	Adopted Date:	10/24/2002
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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