



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Fort Pierce, FL	Accident Number:	MIA02LA165
Date & Time:	09/01/2002, 1253 EDT	Registration:	N33N
Aircraft:	Cessna T337D	Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot stated that he estimated that at takeoff the airplane had about 35 gallons of fuel on board, and after about 45 minutes, while in cruise flight, at an altitude of 4500 feet, the front engine suddenly ceased operating. He stated that he had experienced problems in the past with water in the fuel tanks, so he did not declare an emergency, even after unsuccessful attempts to restart the engine. He said the airplane was maintaining 120 knots, and fully controllable while being only powered by the rear engine. He said that in his mind, it was only water in the left tank, and his destination, Fort Pierce, Florida, was only 10 miles away, so he continued to his destination. After contacting FAA Fort Pierce Air traffic Control Tower, the pilot said that he then entered a right base, turned on to the final approach course for an approach to land on runway 09, lowered his landing gear, set 10 degrees of flaps, and was on final at about 600 feet altitude, when all of a sudden the rear engine ceased operating. He said the only area to land was a small field on the right, so he turned 90 degrees, and entered a dive to prevent the airplane from stalling. The aircraft impacted in an orange grove, rebounded once, and then stopped in a canal. The pilot stated the engines failed due to fuel "starvation", and added that "the airplane had not been loaded with enough fuel..." Prior to the accident, the pilot said that there were no mechanical failures or malfunctions to the airplane or to any of its systems. The FAA Inspector who responded to the accident scene stated that during his examination he discovered no fuel in the fuel tanks, and minimal fuel at the scene.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:
The pilot's misjudgment of the fuel supply, and subsequent fuel exhaustion.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - NONMECHANICAL
Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - FINAL APPROACH

Findings

1. (C) FLUID,FUEL - EXHAUSTION
2. (C) FUEL SUPPLY - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND

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

Occurrence #3: ON GROUND/WATER ENCOUNTER WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY LANDING

Findings

3. TERRAIN CONDITION - DITCH

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	28
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine; Instrument Airplane
Flight Time:	1600 hours (Total, all aircraft), 30 hours (Total, this make and model), 1300 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N33N
Model/Series:	T337D	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Operator:	K. R. Aviation Inc.	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	TSIO-360-A3
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:	FPR, 25 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	4 knots / , 80°
Temperature:	28° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Fort Lauderdale, FL (FXE)	Destination:	Fort Pierce, FL (FPR)

Airport Information

Airport:	Fort Pierce (FPR)	Runway Surface Type:	Unknown
Runway Used:	NA	Runway Surface Condition:	Unknown
Runway Length/Width:			

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:	27.495000, -80.368333		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	John W Lovell	Adopted Date:	03/30/2004
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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