



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Immokalee, FL	Accident Number:	ATL03LA029
Date & Time:	01/03/2003, 1210 EST	Registration:	N45051
Aircraft:	Mielec PZL-M-18	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Analysis

According to the pilot, 20 minutes into the flight the engine flammed out while the airplane was in a left bank. As the pilot maneuvered for an emergency landing, the airplane's left wingtip struck trees, and the airplane collided with the ground. According to the pilot, in his preflight planning he did not compute the fuel consumption or reference the pilot operating handbook for the intended trip. The pilot stated he did not refuel the airplane after the initial load bearing trip. The pilot stated that this accident could have been prevented if he refueled the airplane before the initial load. According to the pilot this airplane is "notorious for poor fuel feeding when low on fuel".

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's inadequate in-flight planning/decision by his improper fuel management which resulted in fuel starvation. Also causal was the pilot's inadequate preflight planning which resulted in his failure to perform fuel consumption calculations and refueling of the aircraft.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER
Phase of Operation: CRUISE

Findings

1. (C) PREFLIGHT PLANNING/PREPARATION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (C) FLUID,FUEL - STARVATION
3. (C) FUEL MANAGEMENT - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND

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

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY LANDING

Findings

4. OBJECT - TREE(S)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	51
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	7700 hours (Total, all aircraft), 500 hours (Total, this make and model), 7500 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Mielec	Registration:	N45051
Model/Series:	PZL-M-18	Engines:	1 Turbo Prop
Operator:	Douglas Hodges	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Operating Certificate(s) Held:		Engine Model/Series:	T53-L
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	RSW, 30 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 4200 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	12 knots / , 310°
Temperature:	18° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Immokalee, FL (IMM)	Destination:	Hendry County, FL (PVT)

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:	26.538056, -81.758611		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Butch Wilson	Adopted Date:	01/24/2005
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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