



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Sheridan, AR	Accident Number:	FTW04LA053
Date & Time:	01/01/2004, 1515 CST	Registration:	N5284C
Aircraft:	Mooney M20R	Injuries:	2 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The aircraft engine lost power 2.5 miles from its destination. Prior to departure the 4,800-hour pilot reported topping-off the fuel tanks with 82 gallons of fuel. Examination of the airplane by an FAA inspector, who responded to the accident site, revealed that the right fuel tank contained approximately 25 gallons of fuel, and the left fuel tank was empty. The fuel selector valve was observed to be in the "LEFT" tank position. An engine run was conducted on February 24, 2004, under the supervision of a FAA inspector, who reported finding no anomalies.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The loss of engine power due to fuel starvation as a result of the pilot's improper positioning of the fuel tank selector. A factor was the lack of suitable terrain for the forced landing.

Findings

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

Findings

1. (C) FUEL SYSTEM - STARVATION/EXHAUSTION
2. (C) FUEL TANK SELECTOR POSITION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND

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

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY DESCENT/LANDING

Findings

3. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - NONE SUITABLE
4. OBJECT - TREE(S)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	69
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	Instrument Airplane
Flight Time:	4800 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1825 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	Mooney	Registration:	N5284C
Model/Series:	M20R	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Joseph Koenig	Engine Manufacturer:	Teledyne Continental
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	IO-550G
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	PBF, 204 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 2700 ft agl
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	13 knots, 190°
Temperature:	22° C / 17° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Walnut Ridge, AR (ARG)	Destination:	Brownsville, TX (BRO)

Airport Information

Airport:	Sheridan Municipal Airport (9M8)	Runway Surface Type:	Unknown
Runway Used:	NA	Runway Surface Condition:	Unknown
Runway Length/Width:			

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Frank McGill	Adopted Date:	06/30/2004
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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