



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Columbia, SC	Accident Number:	ATL04LA088
Date & Time:	04/02/2004, 1550 EST	Registration:	N271EP
Aircraft:	Cessna 172N	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

While on visual approach to the airport, the engine sputtered then lost power. The pilot's attempts to restore engine power were not successful. The pilot maneuvered the airplane to avoid trees, and it touched down on a grass fairway and nosed over. Examination of the airplane revealed 18 ounces of fuel was recovered from the right wing tank, and no fuel was recovered from the left wing tank. Four ounces of fuel was recovered from the fuel supply line to the carburetor, and the carburetor bowl contained no fuel. No evidence of fuel system leakage or defects were observed. Examination of the engine revealed no evidence of malfunction. Per STC SA4428SW, the airplane was equipped with a Lycoming O-360-A4M, 180-horsepower engine. The airplane accumulated 3.7 hours on the hobbs meter during the flight.

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, which resulted in fuel exhaustion. The pilot's preflight planning and uneven terrain were contributing factors.

Findings

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

Findings

1. (C) FLUID,FUEL - EXHAUSTION
2. (F) PREFLIGHT PLANNING/PREPARATION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND

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

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

Findings

4. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - ROUGH/UNEVEN
5. OBJECT - TREE(S)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	33
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Single-engine; Instrument Airplane
Flight Time:	386 hours (Total, all aircraft), 285 hours (Total, this make and model), 261 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 31 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N271EP
Model/Series:	172N	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Avion Air Academy	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-360-A4M
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:	KCAE, 236 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 2100 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	9 knots / 16 knots, 230°
Temperature:	19°C	Visibility	4 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Orlando Sanford, FL (KSFB)	Destination:	Columbia Metro, SC (KCAE)

Airport Information

Airport:	Columbia Metropolitan (KCAE)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Runway Used:	NA	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:			

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:	33.942500, -81.121389		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Catherine E Gagne

Adopted Date: 02/24/2005

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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