



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

|                                |                                      |                         |            |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| <b>Location:</b>               | Columbia, SC                         | <b>Accident Number:</b> | ATL05CA019 |
| <b>Date &amp; Time:</b>        | 11/02/2004, 1941 EST                 | <b>Registration:</b>    | N4874G     |
| <b>Aircraft:</b>               | Cessna 172N                          | <b>Injuries:</b>        | 1 Serious  |
| <b>Flight Conducted Under:</b> | Part 91: General Aviation - Personal |                         |            |

## Analysis

The pilot declared a "mayday" 17 miles northeast of Columbia Metropolitan Airport, at 4,500 feet and stated that his engine had lost power and that he was going to land in a parking lot. The airplane collided with power lines and the ground. The post-accident examination of the fuel system revealed no fuel in either wing fuel tank, trace amounts of fuel in the fuel strainer, and trace amounts of fuel in the fuel line from the fuel strainer to the carburetor. A functional check of the engine was accomplished and it produced power at idle and 1000 RPM. The airplane was last topped off with fuel on October 31, 2004, and had flown 4.1 hours since that refueling. On the same day of the accident the pilot also completed a total of three takeoffs on the same fuel load. At 75 % engine power, the airplane has an endurance of 3.9 hours.

## Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's inadequate preflight planning of fuel required for the flight, which resulted in fuel exhaustion and subsequent loss of engine power.

## Findings

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

### Findings

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

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

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

### Findings

3. OBJECT - WIRE,STATIC
4. TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND

## Pilot Information

|                                  |  |                              |   |
|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Certificate:</b>              | Commercial   | <b>Age:</b>                  | 50  |
| <b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>       | Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land                                  | <b>Instrument Rating(s):</b> | Airplane                                      |
| <b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b> | None   | <b>Instructor Rating(s):</b> | Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine |
| <b>Flight Time:</b>              | 2700 hours (Total, all aircraft), 4 hours (Total, this make and model) |                              |   |

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

|                                       |                                      |                             |                 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Aircraft Make:</b>                 | Cessna                               | <b>Registration:</b>        | N4874G          |
| <b>Model/Series:</b>                  | 172N                                 | <b>Engines:</b>             | 1 Reciprocating |
| <b>Operator:</b>                      | Pegasus Air, LLC                     | <b>Engine Manufacturer:</b> | Lycoming        |
| <b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b> | None                                 | <b>Engine Model/Series:</b> | O-320           |
| <b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>        | Part 91: General Aviation - Personal |                             |                 |

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

|   |                       |                                     |                              |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>     | Visual Conditions     | <b>Condition of Light:</b>          | Night                        |
| <b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b> | CAE, 200 ft msl       | <b>Weather Information Source:</b>  | Weather Observation Facility |
| <b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>                  | None                  | <b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b> | 5 knots / , 200°             |
| <b>Temperature:</b>                     | 22° C                 | <b>Visibility</b>                   | 10 Miles                     |
| <b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>   |                       |                                     |                              |
| <b>Departure Point:</b>                 | Chapel Hill, NC (IGX) | <b>Destination:</b>                 | Columbia, SC (CAE)           |

## Airport Information

|                             |                                      |                                  |         |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Airport:</b>             | Columbia Metropolitan Airport (KCAE) | <b>Runway Surface Type:</b>      | Unknown |
| <b>Runway Used:</b>         | NA                                   | <b>Runway Surface Condition:</b> | Unknown |
| <b>Runway Length/Width:</b> |                                      |                                  |         |

## Wreckage and Impact Information

|                             |                       |                            |             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Crew Injuries:</b>       | 1 Serious             | <b>Aircraft Damage:</b>    | Substantial |
| <b>Passenger Injuries:</b>  | N/A                   | <b>Aircraft Fire:</b>      | None        |
| <b>Ground Injuries:</b>     | N/A                   | <b>Aircraft Explosion:</b> | None        |
| <b>Latitude, Longitude:</b> | 33.942500, -81.121389 |                            |             |

## Administrative Information

|                                      |  |                      |            |
|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------|------------|
| <b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b> | Phil Powell  | <b>Adopted Date:</b> | 06/28/2006 |
| <b>Note:</b>                         | This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.  |                      |            |
| <b>Investigation Docket:</b>         | 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 <a href="mailto:pubinq@ntsb.gov">pubinq@ntsb.gov</a> , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/</a> . |                      |            |

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