



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Decherd, TN	Accident Number:	ATL05CA095
Date & Time:	06/03/2005, 1830 CDT	Registration:	N524J
Aircraft:	David S Robbins Christavia MK 1	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot performed a preflight inspection but stated that he failed to visually check the fuel quantity in the tanks. Approximately 30 minutes into the flight, the engine started sputtering and the pilot turned on the electric fuel pump. The engine lost power and efforts by the pilot to restart the engine were unsuccessful. The pilot located a pasture for an emergency landing and was approximately 50 feet above the ground when he banked hard to the right to avoid four poles sticking out of the ground. As the pilot continued to maneuver for the emergency landing, the airplane collided with the ground. The post-accident examination of the airplane revealed that the fuel gauge was on 'E' and there was no fuel recovered from the fuel tanks. The examination of the airplane also revealed that the fuel tanks were not breached.

Probable Cause

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

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 - EXHAUSTION

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING

Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY DESCENT/LANDING

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Findings

3. TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	57
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	500 hours (Total, all aircraft), 269 hours (Total, this make and model), 100 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	David S Robbins	Registration:	N524J
Model/Series:	Christavia MK 1	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	David S. Robbins	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-200A
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:	KMDQ, 755 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:		Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	4 knots / , 270°
Temperature:	27° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Winchester, TN (KBGF)	Destination:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:	35.216667, -86.083333		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Phil Powell	Adopted Date:	06/28/2006
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
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 pubin@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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