



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	China Lake, CA	Accident Number:	LAX06CA050
Date & Time:	12/01/2005, 1720 PST	Registration:	N6004X
Aircraft:	Mooney M20A	Injuries:	2 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The airplane made a hard landing on a road after losing engine power. The flight was the return leg of a long cross-country from Kansas, that included an intermediate refueling stop in New Mexico. The pilot departed the intermediate airport with 49 gallons of fuel on board and thought he had enough fuel to make it to his destination. As the flight neared the destination airport the pilot reported to the TRACON controller that he had a low fuel state. The controller suggested a closer alternate airport. While attempting to land at the alternate airport, the pilot encountered adverse weather conditions including turbulence and crosswinds that exceeded the capabilities of the airplane. He decided instead to make a forced landing on a winding and undulating road. The engine lost power at this point and the pilot switched fuel tanks. The engine restarted for about 20 seconds and then lost power again. The pilot was unable to see the rising road in the darkness and did not perform a flare. The airplane landed hard and came to rest in between the road and a ditch.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: fuel exhaustion due to the pilot's inadequate in-flight planning and fuel consumption calculations.

Findings

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

Findings

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

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

Occurrence #3: HARD LANDING
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY LANDING

Findings

4. TERRAIN CONDITION - ROADWAY/HIGHWAY
5. TERRAIN CONDITION - UPHILL
6. LIGHT CONDITION - DUSK

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	61
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	170 hours (Total, all aircraft), 94 hours (Total, this make and model), 117 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 24 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 20 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 9 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Mooney	Registration:	N6004X
Model/Series:	M20A	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Bradley Glasco	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-360 A1D
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Dusk
Observation Facility, Elevation:	NID	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 20000 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Calm / ,
Temperature:	14° C	Visibility	50 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	ALBUQUERQUE, NM (AEG)	Destination:	INYOKERN, CA (IYK)

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
Latitude, Longitude:	35.686667, -117.697778		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Howard Plagens	Adopted Date:	03/28/2006
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 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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