



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Visalia, CA	Accident Number:	LAX07CA098
Date & Time:	03/03/2007, 0745 PST	Registration:	N6628U
Aircraft:	Mooney M20D	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The airplane collided with a berm during a forced landing in an industrial building construction site following a loss of engine power. The pilot stated that during the preflight inspection he did not check the fuel quantity. He stated that a month prior to the accident the airplane had been "topped off," and then flown about an hour from the right fuel tank. The pilot also said that during the 160 nautical mile accident flight he did not recall switching fuel tanks. About 3 miles north of the destination airport the engine sputtered and lost power. He switched tanks and activated the electric fuel boost pump, the engine restarted momentarily, then sputtered and lost power again. The pilot switched tanks three or four more times to no avail. Post accident inspection of the airplane by the FAA revealed that the right fuel tank was empty and the left tank contained about 6 gallons of 100LL aviation fuel. The fuel line to the carburetor did not contain any fuel. The fuel selector valve was selected to the right tank position. The electric fuel pump was activated and no fuel pressure indication was observed. The fuel selector handle was moved to the left fuel tank position and a fuel pressure indication was observed in the normal operating range.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's inadequate in-flight fuel system management, which resulted in fuel starvation and a loss of engine power.

Findings

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

Findings

1. (C) FLUID,FUEL - STARVATION
 2. FUEL SUPPLY - NOT VERIFIED - PILOT IN COMMAND
 3. (C) FUEL MANAGEMENT - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY DESCENT/LANDING

Occurrence #3: ON GROUND/WATER ENCOUNTER WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY LANDING

Findings

4. TERRAIN CONDITION - BERM

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	62
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	1083 hours (Total, all aircraft), 320 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Mooney	Registration:	N6628U
Model/Series:	M20D	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	On file	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:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	VIS, 295 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	4 knots / , 90°
Temperature:	8° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	CONCORD, CA (CCR)	Destination:	VISALIA, CA (VIS)

Airport Information

Airport:	VISALIA MUNI (VIS)	Runway Surface Type:	
Runway Used:	NA	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Length/Width:			

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:	36.333333, -119.383333		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Patrick H Jones	Adopted Date:	05/29/2007
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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