



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Opelousas, LA	Accident Number:	CEN09CA280
Date & Time:	05/03/2009, 1820 CDT	Registration:	N4590K
Aircraft:	CESSNA 152	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of engine power (total)	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The commercial pilot was 500 feet above ground level on approach to his destination airport when the single-engine airplane lost power. The pilot made a forced landing to a rain-soaked field approximately 8 miles north of the runway. On touchdown the nose gear sank into the muddy terrain and collapsed. According to the pilot the airplane had approximately 15 gallons of fuel on board upon departure. An on-scene inspection of the fuel tanks indicated 2 1/2 gallons in the left tank and 1 gallon in the right tank. The aircraft manual states 1 1/2 gallons of fuel is unusable in the tanks. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the firewall. The pilot and passenger were not injured.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: A total loss of engine power due to fuel exhaustion as a result of the pilot's failure to refuel the airplane prior to flight.

Findings

Aircraft	Fuel - Fluid level (Cause)
Personnel issues	Decision making/judgment - Pilot (Cause) Fuel planning - Pilot (Cause)

Factual Information

History of Flight

Enroute-descent	Loss of engine power (total) (Defining event) Fuel exhaustion
Landing-landing roll	Landing gear collapse

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	26, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Without Waivers/Limitations	Last Medical Exam:	04/28/2009
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	04/29/2009
Flight Time:	3015 hours (Total, all aircraft), 50 hours (Total, this make and model), 2500 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 50 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 20 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	CESSNA	Registration:	N4590K
Model/Series:	152	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	15280319
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	04/24/2009, 100 Hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1670 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	7070 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-235
Registered Owner:	THOMAS WOLF TRUCKING INC	Rated Power:	125 hp
Operator:	T & M Aviation, INC	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	KOPL, 75 ft msl	Observation Time:	1753 CDT
Distance from Accident Site:	8 Nautical Miles	Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:	180°	Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Temperature/Dew Point:	20° C / 18° C
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 4800 ft agl	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	3 knots, 110°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	29.86 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	Light - Showers - No Obscuration; Light - Showers - Rain		
Departure Point:	Rayville, LA (M79)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Opelousas, LA (KOPL)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1715 CDT	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	St Landry Parish Airport (KOPL)	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	75 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	N/A	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Forced Landing

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
Total Injuries:	2 None		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	William H Gamble	Adopted Date:	11/09/2009
Additional Participating Persons:	Robert Hardwick; Federal Aviation Administration; Baton Rouge, LA		
Publish Date:	11/09/2009		
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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