



National Transportation Safety Board

Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	San Luis Obispo, CA	Accident Number:	WPR11FA120
Date & Time:	02/03/2011, 0945 PST	Registration:	N47503
Aircraft:	AERONCA O-58C	Injuries:	1 Fatal, 1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The airplane was in cruise flight at 3,500 feet mean sea level when the engine lost power. The pilot restarted the engine, and it ran for about 20 seconds before again losing power. He applied carburetor heat, but the cycle of losing power and restarting for a few seconds occurred several times. The pilot attempted to land in a field, but collided with trees at the edge of the field. There was no evidence of preimpact mechanical malfunction found during a postaccident examination of the airframe and engine. The meteorological conditions at the time of the accident were conducive to serious carburetor icing at cruise power. Although the pilot applied carburetor heat after the initial power loss, the engine likely did not run long enough to melt the ice and restore power.

Flight Events

- Maneuvering - Loss of engine power (total)
- Emergency descent - Off-field or emergency landing
- Landing-flare/touchdown - Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's delay in using carburetor heat, which resulted in a loss of engine power due to an encounter with carburetor icing conditions.

Findings

- Aircraft-Aircraft systems-Ice/rain protection system-Intake anti-ice, deice-Not used/operated - C
- Personnel issues-Task performance-Use of equip/info-Use of equip/system-Pilot - C
- Personnel issues-Action/decision-Action-Delayed action-Pilot - C
- Environmental issues-Conditions/weather/phenomena-Temp/humidity/pressure-Conducive to carburetor icing-Contributed to outcome - C
- Environmental issues-Physical environment-Object/animal/substance-Tree(s)-Contributed to outcome

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private; Sport Pilot	Age:	66
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	313 hours (Total, all aircraft), 20 hours (Total, this make and model), 205 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	AERONCA	Registration:	N47503
Model/Series:	O-58C	Engines:	1
Operator:	Jeffrey B Wells	Engine Manufacturer:	
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	KSBP, 212 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Calm
Temperature:	9°C / 4°C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Paso Robles, CA	Destination:	Oceano, CA

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Howard D Plagens	Adopted Date:	05/03/2012
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=78275		

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