



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Gonzales, LA	Accident Number:	CEN11CA221
Date & Time:	02/05/2011, 1751 CST	Registration:	N11790
Aircraft:	CESSNA 150L	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of engine power (total)	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

The certified flight instructor did not visually inspect the fuel tanks prior to departure, but noted that the fuel gauge was just below the full mark, and the student pilot told him the fuel tanks were full. Based on his experience in the airplane, the instructor estimated a total of 4 hours of fuel on board and then departed on an instructional flight that included numerous practice take offs and landings. Approximately 3 hours into the flight, as they were returning to their home airport, the engine lost power. The instructor was unable to re-start the engine and made a forced landing to a grass field where the right wing impacted a tree, resulting in substantial damage to the strut. A Federal Aviation Administration inspector drained both fuel tanks and reported that approximately 3/4 of a gallon of fuel was drained from the right wing tank and 1/2 of a gallon of fuel was drained from the left wing tank. The fuel line to the carburetor was removed and some fuel was found in the line. The gascolator was removed and approximately 7 to 8 ounces of fuel (absent of debris) was recovered. The carburetor was removed and disassembled and approximately 2 ounces of fuel (absent of debris) was observed in the bowl. No mechanical deficiencies were noted with the airplane or engine.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The flight instructor's failure to monitor the available fuel supply, which resulted in a loss of engine power due to fuel exhaustion.

Findings

Aircraft	Fuel - Fluid level (Cause)
Personnel issues	Incomplete action - Instructor/check pilot (Cause)

Factual Information

History of Flight

Enroute	Loss of engine power (total) (Defining event)
Emergency descent	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Flight Instructor Information

Certificate:	Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	57
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Single-engine; Instrument Airplane	Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With Waivers/Limitations	Last Medical Exam:	07/28/2010
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	2415 hours (Total, all aircraft), 260 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	CESSNA	Registration:	N11790
Model/Series:	150L	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	15075634
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:		Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	0-200 SERIES
Registered Owner:	Michael Schaff	Rated Power:	100 hp
Operator:	Michael Schaff	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:		Observation Time:	
Distance from Accident Site:		Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:		Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Temperature/Dew Point:	
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility	
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:		Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:		Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Baton Rouge, LA (BTR)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Gonzales, LA	Type of Clearance:	VFR
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	
Total Injuries:	2 None		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Leah D Yeager	Adopted Date:	10/03/2011
Additional Participating Persons:	Dan Malone; FAA/FSDO; Baton Rouge, LA		
Publish Date:	10/03/2011		
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=78527		

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