



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Gonzales, LA	Accident Number:	CEN11CA221
Date & Time:	02/05/2011, 1751 CST	Registration:	N11790
Aircraft:	CESSNA 150L	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.

Flight Events

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

Probable Cause

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-Fluids/misc hardware-Fluids-Fuel-Fluid level - C
Personnel issues-Action/decision-Action-Incomplete action-Instructor/check pilot - C

Flight Instructor Information

Certificate:	Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	57
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Single-engine; Instrument Airplane
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	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Michael Schaff	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	0-200 SERIES
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:		Weather Information Source:	Unknown
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	
Temperature:		Visibility:	
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Baton Rouge, LA (BTR)	Destination:	Gonzales, LA

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Leah D Yeager	Adopted 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		

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

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