



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Ridgefield, CT	Accident Number:	ERA12LA001
Date & Time:	10/01/2011, 1245 EDT	Registration:	N231EB
Aircraft:	MOONEY AIRCRAFT CORP. M20K	Injuries:	1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

According to the pilot, he completed a preflight inspection, which included checking the fuel quantity and conducting an engine run-up, without any discrepancies noted. The airplane took off without incident; however, at about 1,100 feet mean sea level, when the pilot made a right crosswind turn, the engine lost total power. The pilot unsuccessfully attempted to restart the engine and subsequently completed a forced landing to a residential area. Postaccident examination of the airplane did not reveal any mechanical malfunctions that would have precluded normal operation. The fuel selector was observed positioned to the left fuel tank, which did not contain any fuel. The right fuel tank contained about 8 gallons of fuel. The fuel tanks were intact and there was no evidence of a fuel spill at the accident site.

Flight Events

Prior to flight - Preflight or dispatch event
Initial climb - Fuel starvation
Initial climb - Loss of engine power (total)
Emergency descent - Off-field or emergency landing
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 pilot's improper fuel management, which resulted in a total loss of engine power due to fuel starvation.

Findings

Aircraft-Fluids/misc hardware-Fluids-Fuel-Fluid level - C
Aircraft-Fluids/misc hardware-Fluids-Fuel-Fluid management - C
Personnel issues-Task performance-Planning/preparation-Fuel planning-Pilot - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	47
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	502 hours (Total, all aircraft), 145 hours (Total, this make and model), 350 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	MOONEY AIRCRAFT CORP.	Registration:	N231EB
Model/Series:	M20K	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	BALDWIN ROBERT A IV	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	TSIO-360 SER
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	DXR, 458 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 5500 ft agl
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	7 knots, Variable
Temperature:	18°C / 14°C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Ridgefield, CT (DXR)	Destination:	Ridgefield, CT (DXR)

Airport Information

Airport:	Danbury Muncpal Airport (DXR)	Runway Surface Type:	
Runway Used:	N/A	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Length/Width:			

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Luke Schiada	Adopted Date:	11/26/2012
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=81957		

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