



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Chesterfield, VA	Accident Number:	ERA12CA059
Date & Time:	11/02/2011, 1220 EDT	Registration:	N833
Aircraft:	BEECH F33A	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Fuel starvation	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The airplane had been fueled and then flown for about 3.25 hours prior to landing at a private airstrip. After dropping off a passenger, the pilot departed from the private airstrip and was en route to a nearby airport when the engine experienced a total loss of power. The pilot performed a forced landing into a reservoir, which resulted in substantial damage to the ailerons. The airplane was recovered from the reservoir, and about 20 and 12 gallons of fluid were drained from the right and left wing fuel tanks, respectively. The fluid from the right tank was determined to be aviation fuel; however, the fluid from the left tank was determined to be water only and void of fuel. The fuel selector was selected to the left tank. The postaccident examination revealed no other anomalies that would have precluded normal engine operation.

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 starvation, as a result of the pilot's improper fuel management.

Findings

Aircraft	Fuel selector/shutoff valve - Incorrect use/operation (Cause)
Personnel issues	Use of equip/system - Pilot (Cause)

Factual Information

History of Flight

Enroute-cruise	Fuel starvation (Defining event)
Emergency descent	Off-field or emergency landing
Landing-flare/touchdown	Ditching

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	78, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 With Waivers/Limitations	Last Medical Exam:	11/10/2010
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	04/20/2010
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 7577 hours (Total, all aircraft), 300 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	BEECH	Registration:	N833
Model/Series:	F33A	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Utility	Serial Number:	CE-1217
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	08/20/2011, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3400 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	14 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1681 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO-520-BB
Registered Owner:	PAGE AIR INC	Rated Power:	285 hp
Operator:	On file	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	FCI, 236 ft msl	Observation Time:	1156 EDT
Distance from Accident Site:	7 Nautical Miles	Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:	96°	Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Temperature/Dew Point:	16°C / 3°C
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Calm	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	30.4 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Fork Union, VA	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Chesterfield, VA (FCI)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1100 EDT	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Chesterfield County Airport (FCI)	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	236 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 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Shawn Etcher	Adopted Date:	02/06/2012
Additional Participating Persons:	Kenny Bain; FAA/FSDO; Richmond, VA		
Publish Date:	02/06/2012		
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=82223		

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