



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Chesterfield, VA	Accident Number:	ERA12CA059
Date & Time:	11/02/2011, 1220 EDT	Registration:	N833
Aircraft:	BEECH F33A	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.

Flight Events

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

Probable Cause

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-Aircraft systems-Fuel system-Fuel selector/shutoff valve-Incorrect use/operation - C
Personnel issues-Task performance-Use of equip/info-Use of equip/system-Pilot - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	78
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
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	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	On file	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	IO-520-BB
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	FCI, 236 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:	16°C / 3°C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Fork Union, VA	Destination:	Chesterfield, VA (FCI)

Airport Information

Airport:	Chesterfield County Airport (FCI)	Runway Surface Type:	
Runway Used:	N/A	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Length/Width:			

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Shawn Etcher	Adopted 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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