



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Corona, CA	Accident Number:	WPR12FA316
Date & Time:	07/20/2012, 1815 PDT	Registration:	N640AM
Aircraft:	CESSNA 182P	Injuries:	2 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Aerial Observation		

Analysis

At the end of a 3-hour-long traffic-watch flight, the pilot began to return to the departure airport. As the airplane transitioned the airspace of an adjacent airport, the engine speed dropped to idle and surged twice. The pilot performed a precautionary landing at the adjacent airport. After an uneventful landing, the pilot performed an engine run-up and more troubleshooting steps and was unable to replicate the engine problem. The pilot then decided to depart for the home airport; however, shortly after departure, the engine speed variations began again, eventually resulting in a total loss of engine power. The pilot performed a forced landing in a nearby field, where the majority of the airplane, including most of its fuel supply system, was consumed by postimpact fire. The engine sustained minimal damage, however, and postaccident examination revealed no evidence of preaccident mechanical malfunctions or failures that would have precluded normal operation.

Flight Events

Approach - Loss of engine power (total)
Landing - Off-field or emergency landing
Landing - Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: A loss of engine power shortly after takeoff for reasons that could not be determined because postaccident examination did not reveal any anomalies that would have precluded normal operation. Contributing to the accident was the pilot's decision to take off with a known but unidentified airplane deficiency.

Findings

Personnel issues-Action/decision-Info processing/decision-Decision making/judgment-Pilot - F
Not determined-Not determined-(general)-(general)-Unknown/Not determined - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	62
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	35326 hours (Total, all aircraft), 12000 hours (Total, this make and model), 35326 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 11 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 0 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N640AM
Model/Series:	182P	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	On file	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-470 SERIES
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Aerial Observation		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KAJO, 533 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	13 knots / , 300°
Temperature:	32° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Riverside, CA (RAL)	Destination:	Corona, CA (AJO)

Airport Information

Airport:	Corona Municipal (AJO)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	25	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	3200 ft / 60 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:	33.894444, -117.576389		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Eliott Simpson	Adopted Date:	02/14/2013
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=84395		

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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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