



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

<b>Location:</b>	Fresno, CA	<b>Accident Number:</b>	WPR15LA077
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	01/03/2015, 1650 PST	<b>Registration:</b>	N2948U
<b>Aircraft:</b>	CESSNA 172D	<b>Injuries:</b>	3 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

The pilot reported that, about 3 miles from the destination airport, the engine experienced a loss of power. During the forced landing to a nearby field, the airplane collided with an unseen set of power lines before touching down in the field. Both the left wing and the empennage were substantially damaged. The pilot reported that, when the engine lost power, the left wing fuel gauge was indicating that the tank was empty and the right wing fuel gauge was indicating that the tank was 1/4 to 1/2 full of fuel. Postaccident examination of the airframe revealed that the fuel system was not compromised, and no evidence of fuel was found in the airplane's fuel system. The examination of the engine revealed no mechanical malfunctions or failures that would have precluded normal operation.

## Flight Events

Enroute-cruise - 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 pilot's improper fuel planning, which resulted in a loss of engine power due to fuel exhaustion.

## Findings

Aircraft-Fluids/misc hardware-Fluids-Fuel-Fluid level - C  
Aircraft-Aircraft systems-Fuel system-Fuel quantity indicator-Not specified  
Personnel issues-Task performance-Planning/preparation-Fuel planning-Pilot - C  
Environmental issues-Physical environment-Object/animal/substance-Wire-Contributed to outcome

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	40
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine Land	<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Flight Time:</b>	326.2 hours (Total, all aircraft), 169 hours (Total, this make and model), 278.5 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Manufacturer:</b>	CESSNA	<b>Registration:</b>	N2948U
<b>Model/Series:</b>	172D	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Operator:</b>	GRAHAM ROBERT A	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Continental
<b>Air Carrier Operating Certificate:</b>	None	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-300-D
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>		<b>Weather Information Source:</b>	Pilot
<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual Conditions	<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None
<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day	<b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>	Calm
<b>Temperature:</b>	14° C	<b>Visibility</b>	30 Miles
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	OCEANIO, CA (KL52)	<b>Destination:</b>	FRESNO, CA (KFCH)

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	2 None	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Maja Smith	<b>Adopted Date:</b>	07/13/2015
<b>Note:</b>	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.		
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=90565">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=90565</a>		

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The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report.