



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Delano, CA	Accident Number:	WPR16LA113
Date & Time:	05/14/2016, 1100 PDT	Registration:	N3724Y
Aircraft:	BEECH C23	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The student pilot was on a multi-leg, solo, cross-country flight. He stated that, while in cruise on the last leg of the flight, the engine began to sputter, so he switched the fuel selector from the right tank position to the left tank position. Shortly after switching fuel tanks, the engine experienced a total loss of power and the student performed a forced landing to an orange orchard. First responders reported that there was no fuel leaking from the airplane, and no fuel was observed in the airplane's fuel tanks.

The student stated that, before the flight, he had filled the fuel tanks to the filler tabs, which equated to 37.4 total gallons of useable fuel. Review of performance information for the airplane revealed that the airplane would have used about 35.4 gallons of fuel at the time of the accident. However, variations in wind or engine power settings may have resulted in a higher fuel consumption on the accident flight.

In a subsequent interview, the student pilot stated that he had exhausted the fuel in the right tank and could not restart the engine before the forced landing.

Flight Events

Enroute-cruise - Fuel starvation
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 student pilot's inadequate preflight and inflight fuel planning, which resulted in a total loss of engine power due to fuel exhaustion.

Findings

Aircraft-Fluids/misc hardware-Fluids-Fuel-Fluid management - C
Personnel issues-Task performance-Use of equip/info-Use of equip/system-Student/instructed pilot -
C

Student Pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	48
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	61 hours (Total, all aircraft), 61 hours (Total, this make and model), 20 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	BEECH	Registration:	N3724Y
Model/Series:	C23 NO SERIES	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	On file	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O&VO-360 SER
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KBFL, 492 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	7 knots / 15 knots, 310°
Temperature:	22° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Porterville, CA (PTV)	Destination:	Shafter, CA (MIT)

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
Latitude, Longitude:	35.722500, -119.227500 (est)		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Christopher R Shaver Adopted Date: 05/01/2017

Note: The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.

Investigation Docket: <http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=93215>

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