



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	King and Queen, VA	Accident Number:	GAA18CA431
Date & Time:	07/05/2018, 1615 EST	Registration:	N1401F
Aircraft:	CESSNA 172	Injuries:	1 Minor, 1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, about 3 hours en route, he realized that the airplane's fuel level was very low. He started to look for nearby airports to land, but the engine rpm dropped, and he realized the airplane was going to run out of fuel before making it to an alternate airport. He decided to land in a nearby field, but on final, the engine experienced a total power loss. Subsequently, during the off-airport landing, the airplane's nosewheel touched down first and broke off. The airplane then "teetered," and both wings struck the ground before the airplane came to rest.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to both wings.

The pilot reported that he departed with about 40 gallons of fuel. He added that he must have burned off more fuel during taxi and takeoff than he realized and, that if he had stopped for fuel earlier in the flight, the accident would not have happened.

The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

Flight Events

- Enroute - Fuel exhaustion
- Enroute - Loss of engine power (total)
- Enroute - Off-field or emergency landing
- Landing - Part(s) separation from AC

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The pilot's improper preflight fuel planning, which resulted in fuel exhaustion and a subsequent total loss of engine power.

Findings

Aircraft-Fluids/misc hardware-Fluids-Fuel-Fluid level - C
Personnel issues-Task performance-Planning/preparation-Fuel planning-Pilot - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	46
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 160 hours (Total, all aircraft), 145 hours (Total, this make and model), 98 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N1401F
Model/Series:	172 H	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	On file	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-300-D
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:	KXSA, 135 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 4700 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	10 knots / 14 knots, 90°
Temperature:	33° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Morehead, KY (SYM)	Destination:	Melfa, VA (MFV)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:	37.720000, -76.840833 (est)		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Eric A Swenson	Adopted Date:	03/18/2019
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=97700		

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