

Engine Partial Power Loss

Indications of a partial power loss include fluctuating RPM, reduced or fluctuating manifold pressure, low oil pressure, high oil temperature, and a rough-sounding or rough-running engine. Mild engine roughness in flight may be caused by one or more spark plugs becoming fouled. A sudden engine roughness or misfiring is usually evidence of a magneto malfunction.

• Note •

Low oil pressure may be indicative of an imminent engine failure – *Refer to Low Oil Pressure* procedure in this section for special procedures with low oil pressure.

• Note •

A damaged (out-of-balance) propeller may cause extremely rough operation. If an out-of-balance propeller is suspected, immediately shut down engine and perform Forced Landing checklist.

If a partial engine failure permits level flight, land at a suitable airfield as soon as conditions permit. If conditions do not permit safe level flight, use partial power as necessary to set up a forced landing pattern over a suitable landing field. Always be prepared for a complete engine failure and consider CAPS deployment if a suitable landing site is not available. *Refer to Section 10, Safety Information*, for CAPS deployment scenarios and landing considerations.

If the power loss is due to a fuel leak in the injector system, fuel sprayed over the engine may be cooled by the slipstream airflow which may prevent a fire at altitude. However, as the Power Lever is reduced during descent and approach to landing the cooling air may not be sufficient to prevent an engine fire.

• WARNING •

If there is a strong smell of fuel in the cockpit, divert to the nearest suitable landing field. Fly a forced landing pattern and shut down the engine fuel supply once a safe landing is assured.

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The following procedure provides guidance to isolate and correct some of the conditions contributing to a rough running engine or a partial power loss:

1. Air Conditioner (if installed).....OFF
2. Fuel Pump..... BOOST
Selecting BOOST on may clear the problem if vapor in the injection lines is the problem or if the engine-driven fuel pump has partially failed. The electric fuel pump will not provide sufficient fuel pressure to supply the engine if the engine-driven fuel pump completely fails.
3. Fuel Selector..... SWITCH TANKS
Selecting the opposite fuel tank may resolve the problem if fuel starvation or contamination in one tank was the problem.
4. Mixture CHECK appropriate for flight conditions
5. Power Lever SWEEP
Sweep the Power Lever through range as required to obtain smooth operation and required power.
6. Alternate Induction Air..... ON
A gradual loss of manifold pressure and eventual engine roughness may result from the formation of intake ice. Opening the alternate engine air will provide air for engine operation if the normal source is blocked or the air filter is iced over.
7. Ignition Switch..... BOTH, L, then R
Cycling the ignition switch momentarily from BOTH to L and then to R may help identify the problem. An obvious power loss in single ignition operation indicates magneto or spark plug trouble. Lean the mixture to the recommended cruise setting. If engine does not smooth out in several minutes, try a richer mixture setting. Return ignition switch to the BOTH position unless extreme roughness dictates the use of a single magneto.
8. Land as soon as practical.