



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Lahoma, Oklahoma	Accident Number:	CEN20CA249
Date & Time:	June 1, 2020, 17:15 Local	Registration:	N6728U
Aircraft:	Mooney M20C	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Fuel exhaustion	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

After about 1 hour of normal flight, the engine lost power. The pilot switched from the right fuel tank to the left fuel tank and the engine restarted. About 5 minutes later, the engine lost power again. The pilot decided to land the airplane in a field since the nearest airport was about 8 miles away. Upon touchdown in the field, the airplane hit a berm, and the landing gear collapsed. The aft fuselage and empennage sustained substantial damage. After the accident, the pilot reported that he was not familiar with the recently purchased airplane’s fuel system. He also stated that he normally topped off his fuel tanks before each flight, but he did not do so before the accident flight. Examination of the airplane at the accident site confirmed that there was no usable fuel on board.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

The loss of engine power due to fuel exhaustion and the pilot’s improper fuel planning before the flight.

Findings

Aircraft	Fuel - Fluid management
Personnel issues	Fuel planning - Pilot

Factual Information

History of Flight

Enroute	Fuel exhaustion (Defining event)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	81, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Unknown Unknown	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 3500 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2 hours (Total, this make and model), 2 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hour (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Mooney	Registration:	N6728U
Model/Series:	M20C No Series	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1963	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	2460
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	January 1, 2020 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2575 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-360 SER
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	180 Horsepower
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	WDG,1167 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	8 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	16:46 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	90°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 12000 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	13 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:	150°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.04 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	30°C / 16°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Oklahoma City, OK (OKC)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Lahoma, OK (WDG)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	16:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class E

Airport Information

Airport:	Enid Municipal WDG	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	1167 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry;Vegetation
Runway Used:		IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Forced landing

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:		Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	36.3875,-98.089721(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Lemishko, Alexander
Additional Participating Persons:	Jerry Heuertz; FAA FSDO; Oklahoma City, OK
Original Publish Date:	August 26, 2021
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class 4
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=101503

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