



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Kahlotus, Washington	Accident Number:	WPR23LA042
Date & Time:	November 15, 2022, 13:53 Local	Registration:	N24227
Aircraft:	Cessna 180	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Fuel starvation	Injuries:	1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, his mechanic had just completed an annual inspection on the airplane, and he was flying it home. While en route at 1,000 ft above ground level, the engine experienced a total loss of power. During the forced landing to a road, the airplane stalled about 40 ft above ground level and impacted the ground hard, which resulted in substantial damage to the upper fuselage.

After the accident, the pilot learned that the mechanic had moved the fuel selector from the BOTH position to the LEFT position. The pilot further reported that he did not check the fuel selector position before takeoff.

A postaccident examination of the airplane by a Federal Aviation Administration inspector revealed that the fuel selector was in the LEFT tank position. The left fuel tank was nearly empty of fuel, and the right fuel tank was full.

The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation and attributed the power loss to fuel starvation.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

The pilot's failure to check the fuel selector position before takeoff and his improper fuel management, which resulted in fuel starvation and a total loss of engine power. Also causal was the pilot's loss of airplane control which resulted in an aerodynamic stall.

Findings

Personnel issues	Forgotten action/omission - Pilot
Aircraft	Fuel - Fluid management
Personnel issues	Use of equip/system - Pilot
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Aircraft	Angle of attack - Not attained/maintained

Factual Information

History of Flight

Enroute-cruise	Fuel starvation (Defining event)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	70, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Lap only
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	March 8, 2022
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	March 22, 2022
Flight Time:	541 hours (Total, all aircraft), 378 hours (Total, this make and model), 541 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N24227
Model/Series:	180	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1955	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	31504
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	November 14, 2022 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	377 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	O-470 SERIES
Registered Owner:	DASHIELL ROSS R	Rated Power:	230 Horsepower
Operator:	DASHIELL ROSS R	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:		Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:		Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Visibility	
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	S61, ID (S61)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Etopia, WA	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Hackney S61	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:		IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Forced landing

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:		Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	46.72236,-118.58783(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Basti, Paymaun
Additional Participating Persons:	Kevin Marsac; FAA; Spokane, WA
Original Publish Date:	February 23, 2023
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class 4
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=106349

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The NTSB does not assign fault or blame for an accident or incident; rather, as specified by NTSB regulation, “accident/incident investigations are fact-finding proceedings with no formal issues and no adverse parties ... and are not conducted for the purpose of determining the rights or liabilities of any person” (Title 49 *Code of Federal Regulations* section 831.4). Assignment of fault or legal liability is not relevant to the NTSB’s statutory mission to improve transportation safety by investigating accidents and incidents and issuing safety recommendations. In addition, statutory language prohibits the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report (Title 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b)). A factual report that may be admissible under 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b) is available [here](#).