



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	WILMINGTON, Delaware	Accident Number:	BF086FHD04
Date & Time:	September 27, 1986, 11:28 Local	Registration:	N100WL
Aircraft:	White Lightning Aircraft Corp. WLAC-1	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

DURING A VFR-ON-TOP FLT WITH NO FLT PLAN, THE ENG LOST POWER FROM FUEL STARVATION. THE PLT DID NOT RECOGNIZE THAT FUEL WAS STILL REMAINING IN A NON-SELECTED AUX TANK. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE ACFT WAS DAMAGED DURING A FORCED LANDING ON THE MEDIAN OF A HIGHWAY. PROPERTY DAMAGE CONSISTED OF BROKEN UTILITY WIRES. THE PLT WAS UNAWARE THAT HIS PARTNER HAD MADE A FUEL SYSTEM MODIFICATION TO THE HOME BUILT ACFT BY ROUTING THE RETURN FUEL TO THE AUX TANK RATHER THAN THE MAIN TANK.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - NONMECHANICAL
Phase of Operation: CRUISE

Findings

1. MAINTENANCE,MODIFICATION - PERFORMED
2. (C) INFORMATION UNAVAILABLE - COMPANY/OPERATOR MANAGEMENT
3. (C) CREW/GROUP COORDINATION - INADEQUATE
4. (C) FLUID,FUEL - STARVATION

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: LANDING

Findings

- 5. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - CLOUDS
 - 6. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - LOW CEILING
 - 7. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - FOG
 - 8. (F) OBJECT - WIRE, TRANSMISSION
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Occurrence #4: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: LANDING

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	59, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Glider	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim	Last FAA Medical Exam:	June 7, 1985
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	25050 hours (Total, all aircraft), 70 hours (Total, this make and model), 22500 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 150 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	White Lightning Aircraft Corp.	Registration:	N100WL
Model/Series:	WLAC-1 WLAC-1	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental (Special)	Serial Number:	100
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	100 hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	50 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	IO-360
Registered Owner:	WHITE LIGHTNING ACFT CORP.	Rated Power:	
Operator:	HOWELL C. JONES	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	06

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument (IMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	ILG ,80 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	2 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	19:42 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	39°
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Visibility	1 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 800 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	15 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	90°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	-18°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	N/A - None - Fog		
Departure Point:	WALTERBORO , SC	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	WILMINGTON , DE (ILG)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	09:10 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:		Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	0 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	0 ft / 0 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Forced landing

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	39.659664,-75.570922(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Pushak, James

Additional Participating Persons:

Original Publish Date:

Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: [Class](#)

Note:

Investigation Docket: <https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=11218>

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