



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	PICAYUNE, Mississippi	Accident Number:	MIA92FA173
Date & Time:	September 1, 1992, 16:15 Local	Registration:	N2377W
Aircraft:	BEECH BE-A23-19	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE PRIVATE PILOT AND ONE PASSENGER DEPARTED ON A 2 HOUR FLIGHT WITH ABOUT 20 GALLONS OF FUEL IN EACH FUEL TANK. THE AIRPLANE WAS NOT FOUND UNTIL 2 DAYS LATER, BURNED IN A WOODED AREA. THE FUEL CONSUMPTION FOR 2 HOURS WOULD BE ABOUT 19 GALLONS. THE FUEL SELECTOR WAS FOUND ON THE LEFT TANK AND THE LEFT WING EXHIBITED LESS FIRE DAMAGE THAN THE RIGHT WING. NO EVIDENCE OF POWERPLANT OR AIRFRAME PREEXISTING FAILURES WERE FOUND.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE FAILURE OF THE PILOT IN COMMAND TO PLACE THE FUEL SELECTOR ON THE FULLEST TANK, RESULTING IN AN ENGINE FAILURE DUE TO FUEL STARVATION OVER UNSUITABLE TERRAIN.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - NONMECHANICAL
Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - DOWNWIND

Findings

1. (C) FUEL TANK SELECTOR POSITION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (C) FLUID,FUEL - STARVATION

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

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Findings

3. (F) OBJECT - TREE(S)

Occurrence #4: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

4. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - NONE SUITABLE

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	41, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	October 22, 1991
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	75 hours (Total, all aircraft), 15 hours (Total, this make and model), 10 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	BEECH	Registration:	N2377W
Model/Series:	BE-A23-19 BE-A23-19	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	MB-14
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	August 1, 1992 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1255 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	6 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2085 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-320-E2C
Registered Owner:	KOTTERMAN, ROBERT D.	Rated Power:	150 Horsepower
Operator:	KOTTERMAN, ROBERT D.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	MCB ,413 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	30 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	15:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	300°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 2700 ft AGL	Visibility	7 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 25000 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	7 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	160°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	28°C / 21°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	PATTERSON , LA (PTN)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	VFR
Destination:	PICAYUNE , MS (PCU)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	15:10 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class D

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 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	On-ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	On-ground
Total Injuries:	2 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	30.519453,-89.670288(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Alston, Andrew
Additional Participating Persons:	BUZZ MASSENGALE; JACKSON , MS EDDIE WEBBER; WICHITA , KS
Original Publish Date:	June 21, 1993
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=32993

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