



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Great Barrington, Massachusetts	Accident Number:	NYC93LA029
Date & Time:	October 22, 1992, 12:10 Local	Registration:	N4384N
Aircraft:	CESSNA 195B	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE PILOT DEPARTED WITH FUEL FOR 6 HOURS OF FLYING. DURING CRUISE FLIGHT, THE PASSENGER DISCUSSED A POSSIBLE LOW FUEL CONDITION WITH THE PILOT, DUE TO THE FUEL QUANTITY GAUGE INDICATING ONLY ONE QUARTER FULL. THE POSSIBILITY OF LOW FUEL WAS REJECTED BY THE PILOT. FUEL EXHAUSTION OCCURRED 2 HOURS AND 50 MINUTES INTO THE FLIGHT. DURING THE FORCED LANDING TO AN OPEN FIELD THE AIRPLANE STRUCK A TREE AND IMPACTED THE GROUND. POST ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION BY AN FAA INSPECTOR REVEALED WET FUEL STAINS ALONG THE RIGHT WING AND FUSELAGE OF THE AIRPLANE. FUEL SIPHONING, FROM THE RIGHT WING CAP, HAD OCCURRED ON PREVIOUS FLIGHTS, AS RECALLED BY THE PILOT AND PASSENGER.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE INADEQUATE PRE-FLIGHT BY THE PILOT ENSURING FUEL CAP SECURITY. A FACTOR IN THIS ACCIDENT WAS THE PILOTS COMPLACENCY IN FUEL MANAGEMENT.

Findings

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

Findings

1. (C) AIRCRAFT PREFLIGHT - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND

- 2. FUEL SYSTEM,CAP - LEAK
- 3. (F) COMPLACENCY - PILOT IN COMMAND
- 4. FLUID,FUEL - EXHAUSTION

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Findings

- 5. OBJECT - TREE(S)

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Findings

- 6. TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND

Occurrence #4: NOSE OVER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	52, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical-w/ waivers/lim	Last FAA Medical Exam:	December 13, 1991
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	3000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2000 hours (Total, this make and model), 3000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 150 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N4384N
Model/Series:	195B 195B	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	7021
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	5
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	March 12, 1992 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3350 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	114 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	4684 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	JACOBS
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	R755B2
Registered Owner:	GEORGE W GARDNER	Rated Power:	275 Horsepower
Operator:	GEORGE W GARDNER	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:		Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:		Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	15 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	10 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	360°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	13°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	HOULTON , ME (HUL)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	09:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class E

Airport Information

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

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	42.192038,-73.363029(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Pearce, Robert
Additional Participating Persons:	JOHN D CHERIS; WINDSOR LOCKS , CT
Original Publish Date:	July 29, 1993
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=37265

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