



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	RIGBY, Idaho	<b>Incident Number:</b>	SEA87IA139
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	July 15, 1987, 15:00 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N321MB
<b>Aircraft:</b>	BEECH 55	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Minor
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	2 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

DURING DESCENT FOR LANDING, WITH BOTH ENGINES BEING FED FROM THE RIGHT MAIN FUEL TANK, A LOSS OF POWER OCCURRED DUE TO FUEL EXHAUSTION. A FORCED LANDING WAS MADE ON A WHEAT FIELD AND DURING LANDING ROLLOUT THE AIRCRAFT STRUCK A DITCH. INVESTIGATION REVEALED NO FUEL REMAINING ON BOARD IN EITHER THE AUX TANKS OR THE MAIN TANKS. HOWEVER, WITH THE MASTER SWITCH ON, THE RIGHT MAIN FUEL GAUGE READ MORE THAN 1/4 TANK REMAINING.

## Probable Cause and Findings

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

### Findings

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

#### Findings

1. (C) FUEL SYSTEM - EXHAUSTION
  2. (C) FUEL SYSTEM, FUEL QUANTITY FLOAT/SENSOR - INCORRECT
  3. (C) FUEL CONSUMPTION CALCULATIONS - INACCURATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
  4. (C) PREFLIGHT PLANNING/PREPARATION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY  
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Occurrence #3: ON GROUND/WATER ENCOUNTER WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

5. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - DITCH

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Airline transport; Flight instructor	<b>Age:</b>	56, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	Airplane multi-engine; Airplane single-engine; Instrument airplane	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 1 Valid Medical-w/ waivers/lim	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	May 6, 1987
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	Yes	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	15891 hours (Total, all aircraft), 131 hours (Total, this make and model), 11500 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 81 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	BEECH	<b>Registration:</b>	N321MB
<b>Model/Series:</b>	55 55	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	TC1114
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Retractable - Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	6
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	February 14, 1987 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	5100 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	2 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	2500 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	CONTINENTAL
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	I0-470-L
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	KAREN PFEIFFER	<b>Rated Power:</b>	260 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	KAREN PFEIFFER	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None
<b>Operator Does Business As:</b>		<b>Operator Designator Code:</b>	

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>		<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Observation Time:</b>		<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Visibility</b>	30 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	10 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	180°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>		<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	27°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	W.YELLOWSTONE , MT (WYS)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	IDAHO FALLS , ID (IDA)	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	14:15 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Grass/turf
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Used:</b>	0	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>		<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Forced landing

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Minor
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	2 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	43.690425,-111.87078(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Carrera, Candace
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	DON STREETER; SALT LAKE CITY , UT
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	October 7, 1988
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class</a>
<b>Note:</b>	
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=40547">https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=40547</a>

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