



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location: NEW ALBANY, Mississippi Accident Number: ATL85LA093

Date & Time: February 9, 1985, 22:10 Local Registration: N6088S

Aircraft: BEECH A36 Aircraft Damage: Substantial

Defining Event: 1 Minor, 1 None

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General aviation

Analysis

PIC HAD 1/2 HOUR CHECK-OUT IN A-36 BUT OVER 3900 TOTAL FLIGHT HOURS. HIS 14 HOURS IN THIS ACFT WAS CROSS COUNTRY FLYING. HE STATED THAT THE FUEL WAS KEPT EVENLY DIDTRIBUTED BY SWITCHING THE FUEL SELECTOR BETWEEN TANKS DURING THE NEARLY THREE HOUR FLIGHT. THE PIC/CFI COMMENTED THAT WHEN THE ENGINE QUIT IT SOUNDED LIKE FUEL STARVATION. POST CRASH EXAMINATION OF THE UNDAMAGED FUEL SYSTEM AND INSTRUMENT PANEL SHOWED 15 GALLONS OF FUEL IN THE RIGHT TANK, 0 IN THE LEFT, FUEL SELECTOR ON THE RIGHT TANK, & THE AUXILIARY FUEL BOOST PUMP OFF-PILOT'S HANDBOOK CALLS FOR AUXILIARY PUMP 'ON' WITH LOSS OF ENGINE POWER DURING FLIGHT.

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 - NORMAL

Findings

1. (C) FLUID, FUEL - STARVATION

2. (C) FUEL BOOST PUMP SELECTOR POSITION - NOT SELECTED - PILOT IN COMMAND

3. (C) LACK OF FAMILIARITY WITH AIRCRAFT - PILOT IN COMMAND

4. (C) EMERGENCY PROCEDURE - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND

5. (C) REMEDIAL ACTION - NOT ATTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Findings

6. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - NIGHT

Occurrence #3: NOSE DOWN

Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

7. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - ROUGH/UNEVEN

8. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - SOFT

9. LANDING GEAR, NOSE GEAR - OVERLOAD

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Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Flight instructor	Age:	40,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane multi-engine; Airplane single-engine	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medicalw/ waivers/lim	Last FAA Medical Exam:	January 30, 1985
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	3960 hours (Total, all aircraft), 14 hours (Total, this make and model), 3751 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 75 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

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Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	BEECH	Registration:	N6088S
Model/Series:	A36 A36	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal; Utility	Serial Number:	E-785
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	December 7, 1984 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3600 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3464 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	IO 520-BA10
Registered Owner:	SIMAITIS, SANFORD B. DEBRA L.	Rated Power:	285 Horsepower
Operator:	METRO FLYING CLUB	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:	Night/dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:		Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:		Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Thin Overcast	Visibility	192 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	0°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	13°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipita	ation	
Departure Point:	MONTGOMERY , AL (MGM)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	OLIVE BRANCH , MS (OLV)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	00:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

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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:	1 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor, 1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	34.489746,-89.019416(est)

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Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Hicks, Preston

Additional Participating Persons:

Original Publish Date:

Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: Class

Note:

Investigation Docket: https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=6743

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant events in other modes of transportation—railroad, transit, highway, marine, pipeline, and commercial space. We determine the probable causes of the accidents and events we investigate, and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future occurrences. In addition, we conduct transportation safety research studies and offer information and other assistance to family members and survivors for each accident or event we investigate. We also serve as the appellate authority for enforcement actions involving aviation and mariner certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and US Coast Guard, and we adjudicate appeals of civil penalty actions taken by the FAA.

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.

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