



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Prescott, Arizona	Accident Number:	SEA08CA099
Date & Time:	March 29, 2008, 06:05 Local	Registration:	N4833J
Aircraft:	Beechcraft 35-C33A	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of engine power (total)	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot was departing on an early morning flight and said that he performed his preflight and pretakeoff checklists. During the takeoff roll, he realized that he had forgotten to switch the fuel tank from the left tank (containing less than 1 gallon of fuel) to the right tank (containing about 35 gallons of fuel). The pilot switched the fuel tank selector from the left tank to the right tank during the takeoff roll, and during the initial climb, the engine sputtered and lost power. The pilot force-landed the airplane off the end of the runway. During the forced landing, the airplane collided with a fence post and incurred substantial damage to the left wing. Following the accident, a Federal Aviation Administration inspector examined the fuel transfer system on the airplane and successfully test ran the engine. No mechanical anomalies were identified.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: Fuel starvation due to the pilot's improper preflight and failure to select a tank containing fuel before takeoff.

Findings

Aircraft	Fuel - Fluid level
Personnel issues	Preflight inspection - Pilot
Aircraft	Fuel selector/shutoff valve - Incorrect use/operation
Personnel issues	Forgotten action/omission - Pilot
Environmental issues	Fence/fence post - Not specified

Factual Information

History of Flight

Initial climb	Loss of engine power (total) (Defining event)
Landing	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	51, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3	Last FAA Medical Exam:	January 1, 2007
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	797 hours (Total, all aircraft), 453 hours (Total, this make and model), 9 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 7 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Beechcraft	Registration:	N4833J
Model/Series:	35-C33A	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	CE-118
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	
Date/Type of Last Inspection:		Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Teledyne Continental
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	IO-520
Registered Owner:	B-C Aviation	Rated Power:	
Operator:	Donald Carter	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PRC,5045 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:	05:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	6 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	210°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.87 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	7°C / -2°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Prescott, AZ (PRC)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Mesa, AZ (FFZ)	Type of Clearance:	VFR
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Ernest A. Love Field Airport PRC	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	21L	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	7550 ft / 150 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:	34.657501,-112.421386

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Dunks, Kristi
Additional Participating Persons:	Pete Kelley; Federal Aviation Administration; Scottsdale, AZ
Original Publish Date:	April 30, 2008
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=67738

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