



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	ALEXANDRIA, Kentucky	Accident Number:	ATL82DA078
Date & Time:	March 20, 1982, 17:37 Local	Registration:	N5526Q
Aircraft:	MOONEY M20E	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE PILOT REPORTED THAT HE HAD MONITORED THE REFUELING OPERATION, BUT DID NOT ACTUALLY UNCAP AND CHECK THE FUEL HIMSELF. HE CALCULATED THAT HE HAD FIVE HOURS OF FUEL ON BOARD. HOWEVER, HE RAN OUT OF FUEL AFTER USING THE RIGHT FUEL TANK FOR TWO HOURS AND 30 MINUTES AND THE LEFT TANK FOR TWO HOURS AND SEVEN MINUTES. DURING ROLL OUT FROM AN EMERGENCY LANDING, THE AIRCRAFT STRUCK A SMALL BUILDING.

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. (F) FLUID,FUEL - INADEQUATE
 2. (C) AIRCRAFT PREFLIGHT - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
 3. (C) FUEL CONSUMPTION CALCULATIONS - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
 4. (C) FLUID,FUEL - EXHAUSTION
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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING

Phase of Operation: LANDING

Occurrence #3: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT

Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

5. (F) OBJECT - BUILDING(NONRESIDENTIAL)

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	35, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Unknown
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	September 9, 1980
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	2524 hours (Total, all aircraft), 214 hours (Total, this make and model), 2312 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 23 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	MOONEY	Registration:	N5526Q
Model/Series:	M20E M20E	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:		Serial Number:	616
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	0 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2390 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed	Engine Model/Series:	IO-360-A1A
Registered Owner:	DAVID S. DEWITT	Rated Power:	200 Horsepower
Operator:	DAVID S. DEWITT	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	
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	7 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Unknown	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	12 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	240°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	60°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	LAKELAND , FL	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	CINCINNATI , OH (LUK)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	13:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	LUNKEN FIELD LUK	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	0 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	
Runway Length/Width:	0 ft / 0 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	38.959903,-84.38034(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):

Additional Participating Persons:

Original Publish Date: March 20, 1983

Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: [Class](#)

Note:

Investigation Docket: <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=69734>

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](#).