

Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location: Greene, Iowa Accident Number: CEN09CA121

Date & Time: December 31, 2008, 14:30 Local Registration: N899CB

Aircraft: Cessna 150M Aircraft Damage: Substantial

Defining Event: Loss of engine power (total) **Injuries:** 2 None

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General aviation - Personal

Analysis

The recently certificated private pilot reduced the engine power setting and descended to an altitude of 800 to 1,000 feet above the ground so the passenger could take aerial photographs of a farm house. The pilot stated that he had the power setting pulled back approximately halfway while they were circling and that the engine seized when he attempted to apply full power to gain altitude. The airplane landed hard during the off-airport forced landing on a snow-covered farm field. The airplane sustained firewall damage when the nose gear collapsed following a 75-foot-long landing roll. The pilot stated that he did not use carburetor heat while circling. Postaccident inspection revealed the engine turned freely when rotated by hand and when the ignition was engaged. Examination of the spark plugs revealed they were black in color from soot.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: A loss of engine power due to undetermined reasons. Contributing to the accident was the rough, snow-covered terrain.

Findings

 Not determined
 (general) - Unknown/Not determined

 Environmental issues
 Rough terrain - Contributed to outcome

 Environmental issues
 Snowy/icy terrain - Contributed to outcome

Aircraft (general) - Not specified

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Factual Information

History of Flight

Maneuvering-low-alt flying Loss of engine power (total) (Defining event)

Landing-flare/touchdown Hard landing

Landing-landing roll Landing gear collapse

Pilot Information

Private	Age:	18,Male
Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
None	Restraint Used:	
None	Second Pilot Present:	No
None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Class 3 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	August 13, 2007
No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	October 17, 2008
61 hours (Total, all aircraft), 53 hours (Total, this make and model), 22 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 9 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		
	Single-engine land None None None Class 3 With waivers/limitations No 61 hours (Total, all aircraft), 53 hours	Single-engine land None Restraint Used: None Second Pilot Present: None Toxicology Performed: Class 3 With waivers/limitations Last FAA Medical Exam: No Last Flight Review or Equivalent: 61 hours (Total, all aircraft), 53 hours (Total, this make and model), 22 hours

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Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N899CB
Model/Series:	150M	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Unknown	Serial Number:	15076699
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	December 17, 2008 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1600 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	2 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	6098 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	O-200 SERIES
Registered Owner:	CEDAR VALLEY AVIATION LLC	Rated Power:	100 Horsepower
Operator:	Kevin E. Brown	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	ALO,873 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	28 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	14:54 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	135°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	3 knots / None	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	160°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	-13°C / -19°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Waverly, IA (C25)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Waverly, IA (C25)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	14:15 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class E

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Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	42.741943,-92.508056(est)

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Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Sullivan, Pamela
Additional Participating Persons:	Kyle Thurston; FAA; Des Moines, IL
Original Publish Date:	May 6, 2009
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	<u>Class</u>
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=73202

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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