



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	SAVANNAH, Georgia	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ATL87LA066
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	January 26, 1987, 12:31 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N10MM
<b>Aircraft:</b>	CESSNA 337D	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Minor, 4 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Aerial observation		

## Analysis

THE PILOT WAS FLYING A DONATED AIRCRAFT IN SUPPORT OF A PROGRAM TO DOCUMENT THE ACTIVITIES OF WRIGHT WHALES OFF THE COAST OF THE CAROLINA'S AND GEORGIA. THE PLT HAD BEEN WITH THE OWNER ON A PREVIOUS FLT, WHEN PROBLEMS DEVELOPED WHILE SWITCHING TO/AND/OR FROM THE AUX FUEL TANKS TO THE MAIN FUEL TANKS. THERE WAS NO DOCUMENTED REPAIR OR TROUBLE SHOOTING CONDUCTED BEFORE THE ACCIDENT FLIGHT. ON THIS FLIGHT THE PILOT TOOK OFF WITH FUEL IN THE AUX TANKS AND SWITCHED TO THE AUX TANKS WHILE ABOUT 20 MILES OFF SHORE AND FLEW SEVERAL LEGS OF THE SEARCH PATTERN. THE ENG QUIT. HE STARTED TOWARD THE SHORE AND THEN SWITCHED THE FRONT ENG TO THE MAIN FUEL TANK, IT QUIT ALSO. THE ACFT WAS DITCHED IN THE OCEAN AND SANK ABOUT TWO MINUTES AFTER IMPACT. IT WAS NOT RECOVERED.

## 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) - MECH FAILURE/MALF  
Phase of Operation: CRUISE

Findings

1. (C) FUEL SYSTEM,SELECTOR/VALVE - ERRATIC
2. (C) FLUID,FUEL - STARVATION
3. (C) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - POOR - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (C) FUEL SYSTEM,SELECTOR/VALVE - IMPROPER
5. (C) OPERATION WITH KNOWN DEFICIENCIES IN EQUIPMENT - INTENTIONAL - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. (F) MAINTENANCE,INSPECTION - NOT PERFORMED - COMPANY/OPERATOR MANAGEMENT

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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Findings

7. TERRAIN CONDITION - WATER,ROUGH

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Occurrence #3: FORCED LANDING

Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Airline transport; Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	58,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>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	September 9, 1986
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	3979 hours (Total, all aircraft), 18 hours (Total, this make and model), 3464 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 40 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	CESSNA	<b>Registration:</b>	N10MM
<b>Model/Series:</b>	337D 337D	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	3370986
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Retractable - Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	5
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	August 8, 1986 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	4400 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	30 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	2 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	573 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	CONTINENTAL
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	IO-360
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	PHILLIP D TEDRICK	<b>Rated Power:</b>	210 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	P. D. TEDRICK	<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>	SAV ,51 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	18 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	11:51 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	270°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Scattered / 1100 ft AGL	<b>Visibility</b>	15 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Overcast / 1900 ft AGL	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	11 knots / None	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	340°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	6°C / 3°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	FERNANDINA BCH (55J)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>		<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	10:31 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Water
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>		<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Water-calm
<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>	Destroyed
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 Minor, 3 None	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 Minor, 4 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	32.019954,-81.139739(est)

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Fouts, Charles

**Additional Participating Persons:** RUBEN S KEETON, JR.; ATLANTA , GA

**Original Publish Date:** May 9, 1988

**Last Revision Date:**

**Investigation Class:** [Class](#)

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=7374>

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