



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	CALERA, Alabama	Accident Number:	ATL93FA031
Date & Time:	December 4, 1992, 19:01 Local	Registration:	N7479N
Aircraft:	BEECH 95-B55B	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	6 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE COMMERCIAL PILOT AND 5 PASSENGERS WERE ON A CROSS COUNTRY FLIGHT. NIGHT, IMC PREVAILED. SHORTLY AFTER THE FLIGHT BEGAN A DESCENT FOR LANDING, THE PILOT REPORTED THAT HE HAD AN 'ENGINE OUT'. HE THEN FOLLOWED UP BY SAYING THAT BOTH ENGINES WERE 'CUTTING OUT'. WHILE RECEIVING VECTORS TO A CLOSER AIRPORT, THE AIRPLANE CRASHED INTO THE WALL OF A DEEP ROCK QUARRY. THE AIRCRAFT WAS DESTROYED BY IMPACT FORCES AND FIRE. THE INVESTIGATION REVEALED THAT ONE OF THE FUEL TANK SELECTOR VALVES WAS IN THE 'AUX' TANK POSITION. THE AIRCRAFT CHECKLIST STATES THAT THE AUXILIARY TANKS ARE TO BE USED IN LEVEL FLIGHT ONLY. A TEARDOWN AND INSPECTION OF THE ENGINES AND COMPONENTS DID NOT REVEAL EVIDENCE OF A MECHANICAL FAILURE OR MALFUNCTION.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT'S CONTINUED FLIGHT WITH THE FUEL TANK SELECTOR HANDLES IMPROPERLY POSITIONED, WHICH RESULTED IN FUEL STARVATION AND ENGINE STOPPAGE. FACTORS WERE THE CLOUDY WEATHER CONDITIONS, THE NIGHT LIGHTING CONDITIONS, AND THE STEEP, HILLY TERRAIN CONDITIONS (A QUARRY) AT THE CRASH SITE.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - NORMAL

Findings

1. ALL ENGINES
2. (C) FUEL TANK SELECTOR POSITION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) FLUID,FUEL - STARVATION

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Findings

4. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - CLOUDS
5. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - NIGHT
6. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - MOUNTAINOUS/HILLY

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Flight instructor	Age:	24, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; 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:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical-w/ waivers/lim	Last FAA Medical Exam:	March 26, 1992
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	842 hours (Total, all aircraft), 800 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	BEECH	Registration:	N7479N
Model/Series:	95-B55B 95-B55B	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	TC-1226
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	October 30, 1992 100 hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	5100 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	63 Hrs	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3014 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed, activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO-470-L
Registered Owner:	GENE STEWART, INC.	Rated Power:	260 Horsepower
Operator:	GENE STEWART, INC.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument (IMC)	Condition of Light:	Night/dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	BHM ,644 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	27 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	18:50 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	180°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown	Visibility	1 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 500 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	0°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	11°C / 11°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	N/A - None - Fog		
Departure Point:	GAINESVILLE , FL (GNV)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	BIRMINGHAM , AL (BHM)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	17:53 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class E

Airport Information

Airport:		Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Forced landing

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	5 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	On-ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	On-ground
Total Injuries:	6 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	33.100753,-86.750076(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Hicks, Ralph
Additional Participating Persons:	GARY L SOLDWISCH; BIRMINGHAM , AL EDWARD BLOUNT; BIRMINGHAM , AL JOHN TREY; VANDALIA , OH CHARLIE RIDDLE; WICHITA , KS
Original Publish Date:	September 28, 1993
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=8680

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