



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Charles City, Iowa	Accident Number:	GAA15CA137
Date & Time:	June 24, 2015, 19:00 Local	Registration:	N5152P
Aircraft:	Piper PA 24	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Fuel exhaustion	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that during a cross-country flight, "the airplane had a complete loss of engine power", and that he made several attempts to restart the engine that were unsuccessful. The pilot made a forced landing in a field where the airplane came to rest after impacting terrain. A post-accident inspection by Federal Aviation Administration Aviation Safety Inspectors revealed that the airplane did not have any usable fuel remaining in its tanks at the time of impact, and that the fuel tanks were undamaged. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the wings, and fuselage.

The pilot reported that there were no mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's inadequate pre-flight fuel planning resulting in fuel exhaustion and a collision with terrain.

Findings

Personnel issues	Fuel planning - Pilot
Aircraft	Fuel - Fluid level
Environmental issues	Rough terrain - Contributed to outcome

Factual Information

History of Flight

Enroute-cruise	Fuel exhaustion (Defining event)
Landing	Off-field or emergency landing
Landing	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	60
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Lap only
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	March 12, 2012
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	October 12, 2014
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 1032.5 hours (Total, all aircraft), 332.6 hours (Total, this make and model), 26.6 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 14.1 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Passenger Information

Certificate:		Age:	
Airplane Rating(s):		Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Restraint Used:	Lap only
Instrument Rating(s):		Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:		Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N5152P
Model/Series:	PA 24	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1958	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	24-168
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	June 6, 2014 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2550 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	57 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	5288 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-360-A1A
Registered Owner:	CELEBRATIONS AVIATION LLC	Rated Power:	180 Horsepower
Operator:	CELEBRATIONS AVIATION LLC	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Dusk
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KCCY, 1125 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	2 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	23:55 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	90°
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 3100 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	6 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:	140°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.05 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	21°C / 19°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	BATTLE LAKE, MN (00MN)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	OELWEIN, IA (OLZ)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	17:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Charles City Regional CCY	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	1125 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:		IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Forced landing

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	43.072498,-92.610832(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Hicks, Michael
Additional Participating Persons:	Brian Lundquist; Federal Aviation Administration; DesMoines, IA
Original Publish Date:	October 8, 2015
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=91434

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