



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Addison, Texas	Accident Number:	GAA18CA264
Date & Time:	May 7, 2018, 23:00 Local	Registration:	N642RJ
Aircraft:	Piper PA28	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Fuel exhaustion	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that he departed with about 40 to 45 gallons of fuel for a calculated 3.9-tach-hour flight with a 10 gallon per hour fuel burn. He added that, en route, the engine sputtered, and he knew the right fuel tank was empty. He switched to the left fuel tank and continued to the destination airport. About 30 minutes from the destination airport, the engine sputtered and experienced a total loss of power. During the forced landing, the airplane landed in a parking lot and impacted a pole.

The pilot reported that the airplane "ran out of gas."

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the left wing and fuselage.

The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions 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 preflight fuel planning, which resulted in a total loss of engine power due to fuel exhaustion.

Findings

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

Factual Information

History of Flight

Prior to flight	Miscellaneous/other
Enroute-cruise	Fuel exhaustion (Defining event)
Enroute-cruise	Loss of engine power (total)
Landing	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	57,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Unknown
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:	June 23, 2016
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	October 21, 2016
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 210 hours (Total, all aircraft), 138 hours (Total, this make and model), 210 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N642RJ
Model/Series:	PA28 180	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1963	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	28-1409
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	January 20, 2018 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	4471 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed	Engine Model/Series:	O-360 SER
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	Pilot school (141)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Night/bright
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KADS,644 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	2 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	03:55 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	346°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	9 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:	160°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.06 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	25°C / 16°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	TUPELO, MS (TUP)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	WEATHERFORD, TX (WEA)	Type of Clearance:	VFR flight following
Departure Time:	20:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class D

Airport Information

Airport:	ADDISON ADS	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	644 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:		Aircraft Fire:	On-ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	33.000278,-96.828056(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Benhoff, Kathryn
Additional Participating Persons:	Cristobal Diaz; FAA; North Texas, TX
Original Publish Date:	October 24, 2018
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=97207

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).