



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Lovelock, Nevada	Accident Number:	GAA18CA468
Date & Time:	August 5, 2018, 12:30 Local	Registration:	N9867X
Aircraft:	Cessna 185	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of engine power (total)	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, during cruise flight, he descended the airplane due to strong winds and determined that the airplane had about 10.9 gallons of fuel remaining, which he equated to about 1 hour of flight. He added that, about 6 miles from the destination airport, the airplane "ran out of gas" and that the engine lost power. He performed a forced landing on a field, and, during the landing flare, the left main landing gear impacted a berm near the edge of the field.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the left wing.

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 improper in-flight fuel planning, which resulted in fuel exhaustion and a subsequent total loss of engine power.

Findings

Aircraft	Fuel - Fluid management
Personnel issues	Fuel planning - Pilot
Environmental issues	Sloped/uneven terrain - Contributed to outcome

Factual Information

History of Flight

Enroute-cruise	Other weather encounter
Enroute-cruise	Fuel exhaustion
Enroute-cruise	Loss of engine power (total) (Defining event)
Landing	Off-field or emergency landing
Landing-landing roll	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	77,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
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 2, 2018
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	August 26, 2018
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 967 hours (Total, all aircraft), 234 hours (Total, this make and model), 1000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 31 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 7 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 0 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N9867X
Model/Series:	185 Undesignat	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1961	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	185-0067
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	March 5, 2018 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3197 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	4266 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	C91 installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	IO 520 D
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	300 Horsepower
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KL0L,3904 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	6 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	19:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	195°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	5 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.06 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	28°C / -2°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	Moderate - None - Haze		
Departure Point:	Yellow Pine, ID (3U2)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Lovelock, NV	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	09:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	40.167778,-118.533332(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Nepomuceno, Eleazar
Additional Participating Persons:	Don Morgan; FAA; Reno, NV
Original Publish Date:	September 26, 2019
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=98000

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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](#).