



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Kapolei, Hawaii	Accident Number:	WPR18LA280
Date & Time:	September 20, 2018, 16:30 Local	Registration:	N66201
Aircraft:	Mooney M20J	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Fuel contamination	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

The certified flight instructor (CFI) reported that, during the pre-flight, a small amount of water was drained from the left fuel tank; no water was noted in the sample from the right tank. Following the departure on the instructional flight, the CFI and the pilot receiving instruction conducted several maneuvers before practicing touch-and-go landings; fuel tanks were regularly switched throughout the flight. During the sixth takeoff, with the landing gear and flaps retracted, at about 300 ft above ground level, the engine lost power. The CFI took control of the airplane, switched fuel tanks, and attempted to troubleshoot the engine, but he was unsuccessful. He initiated a forced landing to the runway with the landing gear in the UP position to avoid rolling into unknown grassy terrain.

During the postaccident examination, some water was drained from the left fuel tank. The right fuel tank was free of water. The fuel collected from the fuel line going into the fuel injectors also contained some water. The propeller was rotated manually, and the continuity was established throughout the engine. No mechanical issues with the engine were noted at the time. It is likely the engine lost power due to water in the fuel.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

Loss of engine power due to water in the fuel lines.

Findings

Aircraft	Fuel - Fluid condition
Aircraft	Gear extension and retract sys - Not used/operated

Factual Information

History of Flight

Initial climb	Fuel contamination (Defining event)
Landing-flare/touchdown	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

On September 20, 2018, about 1630 Hawaii standard time, a Mooney M20J airplane, N66201, was substantially damaged during a forced landing at Kalaeloa Airport/John Rodgers Field (PHJR) Kapolei, Hawaii. The certified flight instructor (CFI) and the private pilot receiving instruction were not injured. The airplane was registered to Perly Aviation Inc. and operated by Aviation Academy Hawaii under the provisions of Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and a visual flight rules flight plan was filed for the local flight. The flight originated from Daniel K. Inouye International Airport (PHNL), Honolulu, Hawaii, about 1430, with an intended destination of PHJR.

The CFI reported that, prior to preflight, the airplane's battery was replaced due to an insufficient charge as the engine would not start. At the same time, fuel was added to both tanks to their respective tabs. With the new battery installed, the private pilot attempted to start the engine a few times, but she was unsuccessful. Following a few attempts on his own, the CFI was able to start the engine and did not observe anything abnormal. The engine was run for 4 minutes, with the fuel tank switched after one minute. When the ammeter stabilized, the engine was shut down. Following the engine run, a small amount of water was drained from the left-wing fuel sump. The private pilot continued to sump the fuel from the left tank until water was not visible. The right fuel tank was then sumped once, with no water visible in the sample. During taxiing, the engine did not run rough, and the engine gauges indicated normal operating limits.

After takeoff from PHNL, the CFI and pilot receiving instruction conducted several maneuvers before practicing touch-and-go landings at PHJR. Fuel tanks were regularly switched throughout the flight. During the sixth takeoff at about 300 ft above ground level, and after the landing gear and flaps were retracted, the airplane stopped climbing; the engine produced a sound as it was in idle and did not respond to throttle movements. At this time, the CFI took control of the airplane and attempted to troubleshoot the engine by manipulating the throttle and switching the fuel tanks; however, he was unsuccessful. The CFI was uncertain about the type of terrain beyond the runway concrete, so he initiated a forced landing with the landing gear in the UP position to prevent the airplane rolling into unknown terrain, and the airplane crashed on the runway.

On October 1, 2018, the postaccident examination of the airplane was conducted by a mechanic under the supervision of a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) inspector. When fuel was drained from the left tank some water was observed. When fuel was drained from the right tank, no water was detected. The fuel collected from the fuel line going into the fuel injectors also contained some water.

Lower spark plugs were removed, When the propeller was manually rotation, compression on all cylinders was confirm. Additionally, engine continuity was established the valve train to the accessory section of the engine. The examination revealed no mechanical issues with the engine that would have precluded normal operation.

Due to the damaged propeller and logistical concerns, an engine run was not performed.

Flight instructor Information

Certificate:	Airline transport; Commercial; Flight instructor	Age:	38,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane multi-engine; Airplane single-engine	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	March 5, 2018
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	October 5, 2017
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 2954 hours (Total, all aircraft), 157 hours (Total, this make and model), 2071 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 63 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 26 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	31,Female
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	April 11, 2018
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	September 8, 2017
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Mooney	Registration:	N66201
Model/Series:	M20J No Series	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1977	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	24-0386
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	May 19, 2018 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2740 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	6441 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO360-A3B6DFF
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	200 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PHNA, 50 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	1 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	02:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	17°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	9 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	260°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.87 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	29°C / 23°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Honolulu, HI (HNL)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	VFR
Destination:	Kapolei, HI (JRF)	Type of Clearance:	VFR
Departure Time:	14:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class D

Airport Information

Airport:	KALAELOA (JOHN RODGERS FIELD) JRF	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	30 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	22L	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	8000 ft / 200 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Forced landing

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	21.307222,-158.070281(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Smith, Maja		
Additional Participating Persons:	Edwin T Lee; FSDO; Honolulu, HI		
Original Publish Date:	June 24, 2021	Investigation Class:	3
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.		
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=98394		

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