



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	Pomona, Missouri	<b>Accident Number:</b>	CEN18LA317
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	August 6, 2018, 12:51 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N76524
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Cessna 120	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Fuel starvation	<b>Injuries:</b>	2 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

The private pilot reported that he departed the airport for the local flight with both wing fuel tanks full of fuel and the fuel selector on the left tank. After flying for about 1 hour, he landed at the airport and departed again. When the airplane was about 500 ft above ground level, the pilot intended to change the fuel selector to the right fuel tank. However, he inadvertently switched the fuel selector to the off position, and the engine lost power. The pilot immediately switched the fuel selector back to the left fuel tank and attempted to restart the engine without success. He executed a forced landing to a field, and, during the landing rollout, the airplane collided with a fence and hay bale, which resulted in substantial damage. The pilot mismanaged the fuel during flight, which resulted in fuel starvation.

## Probable Cause and Findings

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

The pilot's inadequate fuel management, which resulted in fuel starvation and a forced landing.

## Findings

<b>Personnel issues</b>	Use of equip/system - Pilot
<b>Aircraft</b>	Fuel - Fluid management
<b>Environmental issues</b>	Fence/fence post - Contributed to outcome
<b>Environmental issues</b>	(general) - Contributed to outcome

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

<b>Initial climb</b>	Fuel starvation (Defining event)
<b>Initial climb</b>	Loss of engine power (total)
<b>Emergency descent</b>	Off-field or emergency landing
<b>Landing-flare/touchdown</b>	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

On August 6, 2018, about 1251 central daylight time, a Cessna 120, N76524, sustained substantial damage during a forced landing near Pomona, Missouri. The pilot and passenger were not injured. The airplane was owned and operated by the pilot under the provisions of Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 as a personal flight. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed at the time of the flight, which was not on a flight plan. The airplane departed about 1145 from the West Plains Regional Airport (UNO), West Plains, Missouri, on a local flight.

The pilot reported that he departed UNO with both wing fuel tanks full of fuel, and the fuel selector was on the left tank. After flying for about an hour, he landed at UNO and departed again. When the airplane was about 500 ft above ground level, the pilot intended to change the fuel selector to the right fuel tank. However, he inadvertently switched the fuel selector to the OFF position, and the engine stopped producing power. The pilot immediately switched the fuel selector back to the left fuel tank and attempted to restart the engine, but without success. He executed a forced landing to a field and during the landing rollout, the airplane collided with a fence and hay bale, which resulted in substantial damage to the airplane.

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	84, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	Lap only
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 3 Without waivers/limitations	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	August 4, 2016
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	May 1, 2018
<b>Flight Time:</b>	1576 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1200 hours (Total, this make and model)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Cessna	<b>Registration:</b>	N76524
<b>Model/Series:</b>	120	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	1946	<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	10958
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	January 26, 2018 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1451 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	4424.11 Hrs as of last inspection	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Continental
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-200-A4B
<b>Registered Owner:</b>		<b>Rated Power:</b>	100 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	On file	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	UNO, 1228 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	2 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	12:53 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	340°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Few / 5000 ft AGL	<b>Visibility:</b>	10 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	10 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	210°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	N/A /
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30.14 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	33°C / 21°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	West Plains, MO (UNO )	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	West Plains, MO (UNO )	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	11:45 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	Unknown
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	Unknown
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	2 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	36.878612,-91.904998(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Silliman, James
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Randy Ottinger; FAA St Louis FSDO; St Anne, MO
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	November 19, 2019
<b>Note:</b>	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=98008">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=98008</a>

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