



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Bend, Oregon	Accident Number:	WPR23LA221
Date & Time:	June 8, 2023, 14:00 Local	Registration:	N340SW
Aircraft:	Cessna 340A	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Ground collision	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that while taxiing, after using a self-serve fuel station, the airplane's left wing-tip fuel tank struck a post at the fuel station and a fire ignited. The pilot shut down the airplane's engines and disembarked the airplane with his passenger. The left wing and fuselage were substantially damaged. The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical malfunctions or failures 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 failure to maintain clearance from the fuel station, resulting in a ground collision and fire.

Findings

Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Aircraft	Taxiing - Incorrect use/operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Taxi	Ground collision (Defining event)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline transport; Commercial	Age:	81,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	August 16, 2022
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	October 29, 2022
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 3300 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2200 hours (Total, this make and model), 3300 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Passenger Information

Certificate:		Age:	Female
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:	
Medical Certification:		Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N340SW
Model/Series:	340A	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1978	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	340A0531
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	5
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	May 30, 2023 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	5500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	2 Hrs	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3230 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	C126 installed, activated, aided in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	TSIO-520
Registered Owner:	On file	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:	KBDN, 3462 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	13:35 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.96 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	23°C / 10°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Bend, OR	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	Unknown
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Bend Municipal KBND	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	3459 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:		IFR Approach:	Unknown
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	On-ground
Ground Injuries:		Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	44.09,-121.2

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Blocher, Kristyn
Additional Participating Persons:	Paul Kirschel; Federal Aviation Administration; Portland, OR
Original Publish Date:	October 20, 2023
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class 4
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=192343

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant events in other modes of transportation—railroad, transit, highway, marine, pipeline, and commercial space. We determine the probable causes of the accidents and events we investigate, and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future occurrences. In addition, we conduct transportation safety research studies and offer information and other assistance to family members and survivors for each accident or event we investigate. We also serve as the appellate authority for enforcement actions involving aviation and mariner certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and US Coast Guard, and we adjudicate appeals of civil penalty actions taken by the FAA.

The NTSB does not assign fault or blame for an accident or incident; rather, as specified by NTSB regulation, “accident/incident investigations are fact-finding proceedings with no formal issues and no adverse parties ... and are not conducted for the purpose of determining the rights or liabilities of any person” (Title 49 *Code of Federal Regulations* section 831.4). Assignment of fault or legal liability is not relevant to the NTSB’s statutory mission to improve transportation safety by investigating accidents and incidents and issuing safety recommendations. In addition, statutory language prohibits the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report (Title 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b)). A factual report that may be admissible under 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b) is available [here](#).