



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	SABLE ISLAND NS, Canada	Accident Number:	NYC85LA013
Date & Time:	10/23/1984, 0307 EDT	Registration:	N5488R
Aircraft:	DE HAVILLAND DHC-4	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Fatal, 1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Ferry		

Analysis

PLT DITCHED ACFT IN ATLANTIC OCEAN FOLLOWING A LOSS OF POWER DUE TO FUEL EXHAUSTION. CO-PILOT STATED THEY WERE AWARE OF BAD WX ALONG THE ROUTE BUT THE PLT WAS ANXIOUS TO GET TO THEIR DESTINATION. HEADWINDS ENCOUNTERED EN ROUTE WERE STRONGER THEN EXPECTED. CO-PILOT STATED THEY HAD SHUT DOWN ONE OF THE ENGINES APRX 1/2 HOUR BEFORE THE DITCHING IN AN EFFORT TO CONSERVE FUEL.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - NONMECHANICAL

Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - RAIN
2. (C) PREFLIGHT PLANNING/PREPARATION - POOR - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - UNFAVORABLE WIND
4. JUDGMENT - POOR - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (F) ANXIETY/APPREHENSION - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. FLUID,FUEL - EXHAUSTION
7. (C) FUEL CONSUMPTION CALCULATIONS - INACCURATE - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Occurrence #3: DITCHING

Phase of Operation: LANDING

Findings

8. TERRAIN CONDITION - WATER,ROUGH

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:		Age:	61, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Unknown Unknown	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	50000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 5000 hours (Total, this make and model), 14 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	DE HAVILLAND	Registration:	N5488R
Model/Series:	DHC-4 DHC-4	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Transport	Serial Number:	216
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	10/22/1984, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	28500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	4500 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	P&W
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	R-2000-7M2
Registered Owner:	NEWCAL AVIATION, INC.	Rated Power:	1200 hp
Operator:	NEWCAL AVIATION, INC.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	YYT, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0300	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 500 ft agl	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 3500 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	15 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	270°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	-12 °C / -13 °C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	SANTA MARIA	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	TETERBORO, NJ (TEB)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	1800 EST	Type of Airspace:	Class E

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal, 1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Fatal, 1 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	VERNON A TAYLOR	Report Date:	
Additional Participating Persons:			
Publish Date:			
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at pubinq@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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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](#).