



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	LUBBOCK, TX	Accident Number:	FTW87LA221
Date & Time:	09/17/1987, 0152 CDT	Registration:	N5449G
Aircraft:	CESSNA 340A	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Fatal, 1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE PILOT DID NOT DECLARE AN EMERGENCY OR MENTION TO THE TOWER CONTROLLER THAT HIS FUEL WAS LOW. HE WAS FIRST TOLD TO ENTER RIGHT TRAFFIC FOR RUNWAY 17R BUT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD TO ENTER RIGHT TRAFFIC FOR RUNWAY 26. (THIS WAS TO ALLOW A DEA AIRCRAFT, AT ITS PILOT'S REQUEST, TO LAND BEFORE THE CESSNA 340A AIRCRAFT. DEA AIRCRAFT REPORTEDLY HAD BEEN TRAILING THE CESSNA SINCE IT CROSSED THE BORDER FROM MEXICO INTO THE UNITED STATES). SHORTLY AFTERWARDS THE CESSNA PILOT INFORMED THE LUBBOCK CONTROL TOWER THAT HE WAS LANDING ON RUNWAY 17. THE AIRCRAFT EXPERIENCED FUEL EXHAUSTION AND IMPACTED IN A COTTON FIELD ABOUT TWO MILES NORTHEAST OF THE AIRPORT BEFORE THE LANDING COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED. A POST ACCIDENT EXAMINATION REPORTEDLY REVEALED THAT ILLEGAL CARGO WAS ABOARD THE AIRCRAFT.

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: MANEUVERING

Findings

1. ALL ENGINES
 2. (C) FLUID,FUEL - EXHAUSTION
 3. (C) FUEL CONSUMPTION CALCULATIONS - INACCURATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
 4. (C) EMERGENCY PROCEDURE - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Findings

5. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - CROP
6. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	53, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	None Expired	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	4000 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N5449G
Model/Series:	340A 340A	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	340A0686
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	5990 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	TSIO-520-NB
Registered Owner:	J-LYTE	Rated Power:	310 hp
Operator:	J-LYTE	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	LBB, 3281 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	4 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0152 CDT	Direction from Accident Site:	225°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 25000 ft agl	Visibility	15 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	6 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	180°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	20° C / 14° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	, MX	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	LUBBOCK, TX (LBB)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0000	Type of Airspace:	Class D

Airport Information

Airport:	LUBBOCK INT'L (LBB)	Runway Surface Type:	Dirt
Airport Elevation:	0 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Rough; Soft; Vegetation
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Forced Landing; Traffic Pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	J O JOHNSON	Report Date:	10/06/1988
Additional Participating Persons:	LEE BOEDECKER; LUBBOCK, TX		
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 pubinquiry@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](#).