



Shaun Williams
Senior Aviation Accident Investigator
Office of Aviation Safety - Central Region

Date: August 02, 2022
Subject: CEN22LA341, N21GF
Contact: Kent Magnuson, Second-in-Command

On July 16, 2022, about 1620 central daylight time, a Cessna 421B airplane, N21GF, sustained substantial damage when it was involved in an accident near Riverdale, Nebraska. The two pilots and two passengers were uninjured and one passenger sustained minor injuries. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)* Part 91 flight.

Mr. Magnuson was the second-in-command of the accident flight and stated that when on short final, both engines sputtered about the same time. He said he thought the left engine lost power first, but the pilot-in-command (PIC) believed the right engine lost power first. Following the loss of power, all engine controls were pushed full forward, but due to the low altitude, the airplane impacted the ground. He stated that the PIC remained calm throughout the event and flew the airplane. When asked, he stated that he thought there was about 80 total gallons of fuel on board at the time of the accident. He said that before adding fuel in Goodman, Kansas, he estimated about 15 gallons of fuel in each main tank and 20 gallons total in the auxiliary tanks. He said that most fuel was in the wing tip tanks. He did not recall seeing the PIC sump the fuel tanks following the addition of fuel in Goodman. He estimated that total fuel burn was between 40 and 45 gallons per hour.

When asked about the way the engines lost power, Mr. Magnuson stated that they sputtered like fuel exhaustion, but said that the PIC said he believed it was vapor lock.

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