



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Douglass Brazy
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

November 16, 2018

Subject: NTSB investigation ERA19TA042, N78870, Mooney M20C, Wildwood, New Jersey, November 10, 2018. Information provided by Federal Aviation Administration inspector Stephan Koza, of the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Flight Standards District Office. Mr. Koza provided the following information in e-mails during the week of November 12, 2018:

The airplane departed from runway 28 at Cape May County Airport (WWD), Wildwood New Jersey, about 1530 eastern standard time. At approximately 100-200 ft above ground level, the engine sputtered and stopped. The airplane began a right descending turn and struck the ground in a drainage ditch against the airport perimeter fence. The pilot sustained serious injuries. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the outboard 3ft of the right wing, the left horizontal stabilizer, and the left elevator.

The pilot reported that the engine stopped because he had performed the taxi, runup, and takeoff with the fuel selector in the "RIGHT" tank position, that fuel tank contained about 3 gallons of fuel prior to engine start. The pilot stated that the left fuel tank contained about 21 gallons of fuel prior to takeoff. The pilot further reported that the airplane was out of date on its annual inspection, and his medical certificate had expired.

Examination of the airplane at the accident site revealed that the right fuel tank was empty, about 20 gallons of fuel was recovered from the left fuel tank. The fuel selector was found in the LEFT tank position.

The pilot received a weather briefing from Flight Service on the day of the accident. He did not file a flight plan for the flight, destined for Columbus County Municipal Airport (CPC), Whiteville, North Carolina.

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