



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Location: | Howell, MI | Accident Number: | CEN19FA279 |
| Date & Time: | 08/20/2019, 1118 EDT | Registration: | N200HS |
| Aircraft: | Aero Commander 200 | Injuries: | 2 Fatal |
| Flight Conducted Under: | Part 91: General Aviation - Personal | | |

On August 20, 2019, about 1118 eastern daylight time, an Aero Commander (Meyers) 200D airplane, N200HS, impacted terrain shortly after departing the Livingston County Spencer J Hardy Airport (OZW), Howell, Michigan. The pilot and pilot rated passenger received fatal injuries and the airplane was substantially damaged. The airplane was registered to Southern Aircraft Consultancy, Inc, Trustee, Norfolk, United Kingdom, and operated by a private individual. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and no flight plan was filed for the Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 maintenance test flight.

According to initial reports, the airplane had recently undergone maintenance, including the installation of a new field overhauled engine and a 3-bladed propeller. The purpose of the flight was for a maintenance test flight for the airplane. The pilot-rated passenger, seated in the right seat, was also a mechanic who had performed the recent work on the airplane. The pilot, seated in the left seat, owned a similar airplane make and model.

The airplane was flown earlier in the day. The airplane was then fueled with 34.4 gallons of fuel. It is unknown if any adjustments or maintenance items were accomplished before the second flight.

Witnesses reported that the airplane departed runway 13 at OZW; they added that when the airplane was about 200 to 300 ft in the air, the airplane appeared to stop its climb and was silent. One witness reported that it looked like the airplane tried to turn back to the runway, before entering a rapid descent.

The airplane impacted terrain and came to rest about 600 ft beyond the departure end of the runway. The responding Federal Aviation Administration inspector, the NTSB Investigator-in-Charge, and a technical representative from the engine manufacturer examined the airplane wreckage on site. The examination found the engine air filter element was displaced and in the engine intake tube (see figures 1 and 2).

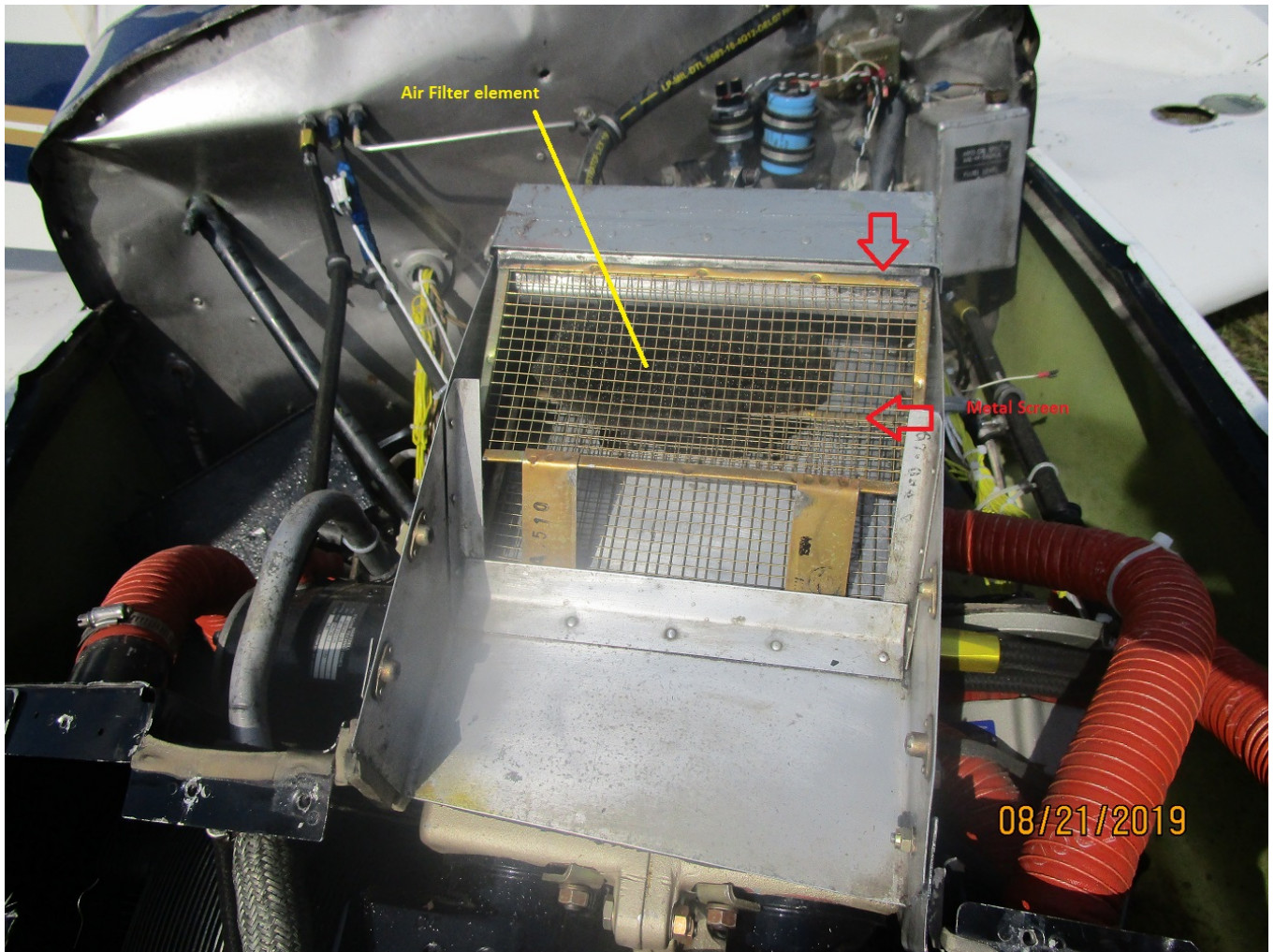


Figure 1: Air intake

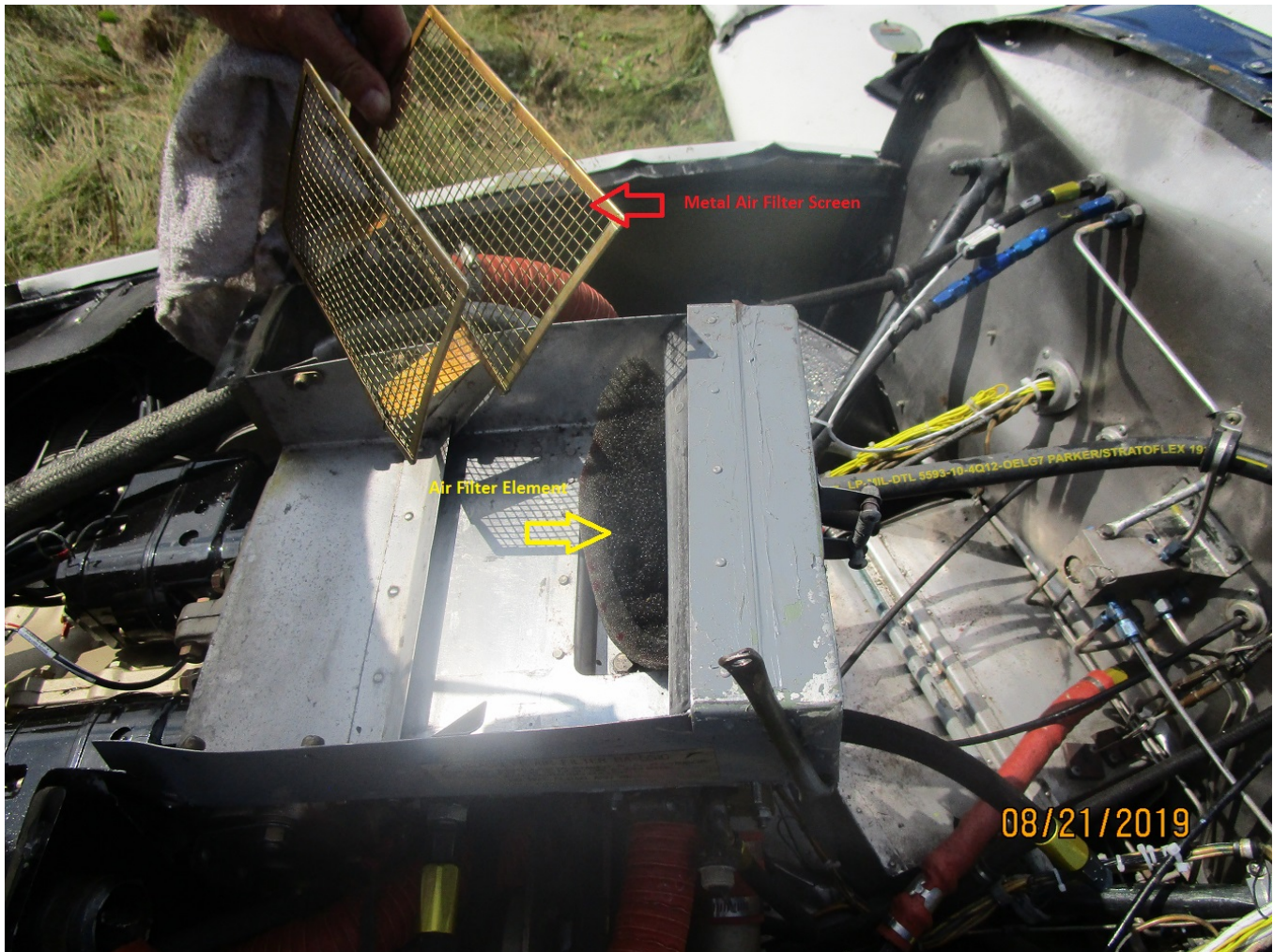


Figure 2: Air intake and air filter element

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

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|-----------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Aircraft Make: | Aero Commander | Registration: | N200HS |
| Model/Series: | 200 D | Aircraft Category: | Airplane |
| Amateur Built: | No | | |
| Operator: | On file | Operating Certificate(s) Held: | None |

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

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|----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Conditions at Accident Site: | Visual Conditions | Condition of Light: | Day |
| Observation Facility, Elevation: | KOZW | Observation Time: | 1139 EDT |
| Distance from Accident Site: | | Temperature/Dew Point: | 28° C / 21° C |
| Lowest Cloud Condition: | Scattered / 8500 ft agl | Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction: | 6 knots / , 140° |
| Lowest Ceiling: | None | Visibility: | 10 Miles |
| Altimeter Setting: | 30.06 inches Hg | Type of Flight Plan Filed: | None |
| Departure Point: | Howell, MI (KOZW) | Destination: | Howell, MI (KOZW) |

Wreckage and Impact Information

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|---------------------|---------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Crew Injuries: | 2 Fatal | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Passenger Injuries: | N/A | Aircraft Fire: | None |
| Ground Injuries: | N/A | Aircraft Explosion: | None |
| Total Injuries: | 2 Fatal | Latitude, Longitude: | 42.624722, -83.973333 |

Administrative Information

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| Investigator In Charge (IIC): | Craig Hatch |
| Additional Participating Persons: | Donald S Brown; FAA FSDO; Detroit, MI Michael Council; Continental Aircraft Engines; Mobile, AL |
| Note: | The NTSB traveled to the scene of this accident. |