



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Moose Pass, Alaska	Accident Number:	ANC20CA006
Date & Time:	October 12, 2019, 17:45 Local	Registration:	N645DT
Aircraft:	Piper PA18	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Collision during takeoff/land	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation		

Analysis

The pilot was attempting to land at a remote airstrip in fading light conditions. Just before touchdown, the left wing impacted a tree, and after touchdown, the airplane exited the runway. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the left wing and the fuselage. The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation. The pilot stated that the accident might have been prevented if he had flown a steeper final approach or had more daylight.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

The pilot's improper approach, which resulted in his failure to maintain clearance from a tree while landing in dusk conditions, and his subsequent loss of directional control, which resulted in a runway excursion.

Findings

Personnel issues	Monitoring environment - Pilot
Aircraft	Descent/approach/glide path - Not attained/maintained
Environmental issues	Low light - Effect on personnel
Environmental issues	Tree(s) - Effect on operation
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing	Collision during takeoff/land (Defining event)
Landing	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
Landing	Runway excursion

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline transport; Flight instructor	Age:	80, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land; Multi-engine sea	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Unknown
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane multi-engine; Airplane single-engine; Instrument airplane	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Waiver time limited special	Last FAA Medical Exam:	April 1, 2019
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	June 30, 2019
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 20000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 8000 hours (Total, this make and model), 60 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 15 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N645DT
Model/Series:	PA18 150	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1982	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	18-8309022
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	August 24, 2019 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1750 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	4131 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	C91 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-320 SERIES
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	160 Horsepower
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Dusk
Observation Facility, Elevation:		Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:	01:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	14 knots / 21 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	330°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.02 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	7°C / -4°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Anchorage, AK	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	Company VFR
Destination:	Moose Pass, AK (PVT)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Private PVT	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf;Gravel
Airport Elevation:	485 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Unknown
Runway Used:		IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	60.516666,-149.5(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Banning, David
Additional Participating Persons:	David Longan; Federal Aviation Administration; Juneau, AK
Original Publish Date:	June 16, 2020
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=100630

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