



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	Kotzebue, Alaska	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ANC20CA088
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	August 21, 2020, 19:00 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N9128T
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Cessna 180	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Loss of control in flight	<b>Injuries:</b>	2 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 135: Air taxi & commuter - Non-scheduled		

## Analysis

The pilot reported that during the downhill takeoff from a remote unimproved airstrip, with a quartering headwind, the wind shifted as the airplane became airborne. The airplane settled "with about 100 yds left on the runway" and he continued "trying to milk the flaps" to become airborne while continuing downhill. The airplane never attained flying speed again and settled into a creek bed. After the impact with terrain, the pilot reported there were "several wind gusts of 15-20 mph coming downhill".

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the fuselage.

The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

## Probable Cause and Findings

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

The pilot's failure to maintain an airspeed conducive to flight during takeoff.

## Findings

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<b>Aircraft</b>	Airspeed - Not attained/maintained
<b>Personnel issues</b>	Aircraft control - Pilot
<b>Environmental issues</b>	Gusts - Effect on operation

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

<b>Takeoff</b>	Other weather encounter
<b>Takeoff</b>	Loss of control in flight (Defining event)
<b>Takeoff</b>	Attempted remediation/recovery
<b>Takeoff</b>	Runway excursion
<b>Takeoff</b>	Nose over/nose down

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial; Private	<b>Age:</b>	72, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	Unknown
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 With waivers/limitations	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	April 2, 2020
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	Yes	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	July 12, 2020
<b>Flight Time:</b>	(Estimated) 40000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 10000 hours (Total, this make and model), 40000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Cessna	<b>Registration:</b>	N9128T
<b>Model/Series:</b>	180 B	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	1959	<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	50628
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	4
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	2650 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>		<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Continental
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-470 SERIES
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	On file	<b>Rated Power:</b>	255 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	On file	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	On-demand air taxi (135)

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	PAFM,289 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	75 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	04:56 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	173°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Visibility</b>	10 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	/	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>		<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29.79 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	21°C / 9°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Kotzebue, AK (OTZ )	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	Kotzebue, AK	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>		<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	2 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	68.330558,-158.2411(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Swenson, Eric
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Scot Brown; FAA; Fairbanks, AK
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class 4</a>
<b>Note:</b>	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=101901">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=101901</a>

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