



Aviation Investigation Preliminary Report

Location:	Talkeetna, AK	Accident Number:	ANC24LA025
Date & Time:	April 21, 2024, 14:45 Local	Registration:	N77032
Aircraft:	Cessna 120	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

On April 21, 2024, about 1445 Alaska daylight time, a Cessna 120 airplane, N77032 sustained substantial damage when it was involved in an accident at the Talkeetna Airport (TKA), Talkeetna, Alaska. The pilot was uninjured. The airplane was operated by the pilot as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 personal flight.

The pilot reported that he performed his standard pre-flight checks, including sumping fuel from both wing tanks and the gascolator. He verified that each wing fuel tank had 6 gallons of fuel. He started the engine and allowed the engine to warm up for 10 minutes, the engine operated normally. He obtained weather and taxied to runway 19 at the Talkeetna airport (TKA), he was number 3 for departure. Before takeoff he performed an engine run up check to include checking both magnetos and carburetor heat with no abnormalities noted. He verified the fuel selector was in the right fuel tank position and departed runway 19 at about 1444. The takeoff roll and lift off were normal, he climbed at the airplane's airspeed for best angle of climb (VX). When the airplane reached about 300 ft above the ground (agl) the pilot observed the engine rpm dropping down to 1500 and then back to 2400 rpm about 5 or 6 times. He turned the airplane back towards the airport and verified the fuel selector was in the right fuel tank position. During the turn the engine lost total power and the pilot made a forced landing into snow-covered terrain short of the runway. The airplane traveled about 40 feet in the snow before the landing gear dug into the snow and the airplane nosed over. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the wing lift struts.

The airplane was equipped with a Continental C85 engine. A detailed engine examination is pending.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N77032
Model/Series:	120	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Amateur Built:			
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand air taxi (135)
Operator Designator Code:			

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	VMC	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PATK,356 ft msl	Observation Time:	14:53 Local
Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	12°C /-7°C
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	3 knots / , 280°
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility:	10 miles
Altimeter Setting:	29.83 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Departure Point:	Talkeetna, AK	Destination:	Talkeetna, AK

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:		Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	62.31803,-150.09522

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Ward, Mark
Additional Participating Persons:	Curtis Martin; FAA
Investigation Class:	Class 3
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.