# Aviation Investigation Final Report

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| **Location:** | CHUGIAK, Alaska | **Accident Number:** | ANC98LA015 |
| **Date & Time:** | January 8, 1998, 15:30 Local | **Registration:** | N9737G |
| **Aircraft:** | Cessna 180H | **Aircraft Damage:** | Substantial |
| **Defining Event:** | | **Injuries:** | 2 None |
| **Flight Conducted Under:** | Part 91: General aviation - Personal | | |

## Analysis

The pilot was landing a tailwheel equipped airplane on a small snow covered airstrip. The surface of the snow was compacted by numerous snow machine tracks. After performing a low pass to assess the runway, the pilot proceeded to land. During the landing roll, the left tire broke through the crusty surface of the snow and sank. The airplane nosed over and received damage to the right wing, the right wing lift strut, the vertical stabilizer, and the propeller.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the pilot's selection of an unsuitable area for landing.  A factor relating to the accident was: the crusty, snow covered surface of the airstrip.

### Findings

Occurrence #1: ON GROUND/WATER ENCOUNTER WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings
1. (F) AIRPORT FACILITIES,RUNWAY/LANDING AREA CONDITION - SNOW COVERED
2. (C) UNSUITABLE TERRAIN OR TAKEOFF/LANDING/TAXI AREA - SELECTED - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: NOSE OVER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

## Factual Information

On January 8, 1998, about 1530 Alaska standard time, a wheel equipped Cessna 180H airplane, N9737G, sustained substantial damage during a landing at the Bold Airstrip, located about 15 miles east of Chugiak, Alaska. The airplane was being operated as a visual flight rules (VFR) personal flight when the accident occurred. The certificated commercial pilot, and the sole passenger, were not injured. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed. The flight originated at Merrill Field, Anchorage, Alaska, about 1515.

During a telephone conversation with the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigator-in-charge (IIC), on January 9, 1998, at 0730, the pilot reported he was landing on runway 14. The surface conditions consisted of snow that was compacted by numerous snow machine tracks. The pilot performed several low passes to assess the runway, and then proceeded to land. During the landing roll, the left tire broke through the crusty snow surface, and sank. The airplane nosed over, and received damage to the right wing lift strut, the right wing, the vertical stabilizer, and the propeller.

### Pilot Information

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| **Certificate:** | Commercial; Flight instructor | **Age:** | 37,Male |
| **Airplane Rating(s):** | Single-engine land; Multi-engine land | **Seat Occupied:** | Left |
| **Other Aircraft Rating(s):** | None | **Restraint Used:** | |
| **Instrument Rating(s):** | Airplane | **Second Pilot Present:** | No |
| **Instructor Rating(s):** | Airplane single-engine; Instrument airplane | **Toxicology Performed:** | No |
| **Medical Certification:** | Class 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim. | **Last FAA Medical Exam:** | May 7, 1997 |
| **Occupational Pilot:** | UNK | **Last Flight Review or Equivalent:** | |
| **Flight Time:** | 945 hours (Total, all aircraft), 220 hours (Total, this make and model), 920 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 30 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 17 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft) | | |

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

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| **Aircraft Make:** | Cessna | **Registration:** | N9737G |
| **Model/Series:** | 180H 180H | **Aircraft Category:** | Airplane |
| **Year of Manufacture:** | | **Amateur Built:** | |
| **Airworthiness Certificate:** | Normal | **Serial Number:** | 52237 |
| **Landing Gear Type:** | Tailwheel | **Seats:** | 4 |
| **Date/Type of Last Inspection:** | August 13, 1997 100 hour | **Certified Max Gross Wt.:** | 2800 lbs |
| **Time Since Last Inspection:** | 99 Hrs | **Engines:** | 1 Reciprocating |
| **Airframe Total Time:** | 2599 Hrs | **Engine Manufacturer:** | Continental |
| **ELT:** | Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident | **Engine Model/Series:** | O-470-R |
| **Registered Owner:** | MARK S. BURG | **Rated Power:** | 230 Horsepower |
| **Operator:** | | **Operating Certificate(s) Held:** | None |
| **Operator Does Business As:** | | **Operator Designator Code:** | |

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

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| **Conditions at Accident Site:** | Visual (VMC) | **Condition of Light:** | Day |
| **Observation Facility, Elevation:** | | **Distance from Accident Site:** | |
| **Observation Time:** | | **Direction from Accident Site:** | |
| **Lowest Cloud Condition:** | Scattered / 15000 ft AGL | **Visibility** | 50 miles |
| **Lowest Ceiling:** | None | **Visibility (RVR):** | |
| **Wind Speed/Gusts:** | / | **Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:** | / |
| **Wind Direction:** | 0° | **Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:** | / |
| **Altimeter Setting:** | 30 inches Hg | **Temperature/Dew Point:** | -8°C |
| **Precipitation and Obscuration:** | No Obscuration; No Precipitation | | |
| **Departure Point:** | ANCHORAGE , AK (MRI ) | **Type of Flight Plan Filed:** | None |
| **Destination:** | (A13 ) | **Type of Clearance:** | None |
| **Departure Time:** | 15:15 Local | **Type of Airspace:** | Class G |

## Airport Information

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| **Airport:** | BOLD A13 | **Runway Surface Type:** | Gravel |
| **Airport Elevation:** | 900 ft msl | **Runway Surface Condition:** | Snow |
| **Runway Used:** | 14 | **IFR Approach:** | None |
| **Runway Length/Width:** | 1000 ft / 30 ft | **VFR Approach/Landing:** | Full stop |

## Wreckage and Impact Information

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| **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:** | 61.410987,-149.169128(est) |

## Administrative Information

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| **Investigator In Charge (IIC):** | Erickson, Scott |
| **Additional Participating Persons:** | JOE HANLEY; ANCHORAGE , AK |
| **Original Publish Date:** | June 26, 1998 |
| **Last Revision Date:** | |
| **Investigation Class:** | Class |
| **Note:** | |
| **Investigation Docket:** | https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=3110 |