



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	TATITNA, Alaska	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ANC98LA024
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	March 3, 1998, 17:00 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N4751U
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Cessna 180H	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	2 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

During the landing roll on a snow covered landing strip, the airplane's skis began to track in a snow machine rut, pulling the airplane to the left. The pilot applied power and full right rudder, but the airplane continued left, striking trees on the edge of the 1,200-foot-long by 12-foot-wide landing strip.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's selection of unsuitable terrain for landing. A factor was the snow machine ruts creating a rough landing surface.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - ON GROUND/WATER  
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

### Findings

1. (F) AIRPORT FACILITIES, RUNWAY/LANDING AREA CONDITION - ROUGH/UNEVEN
2. (C) UNSUITABLE TERRAIN OR TAKEOFF/LANDING/TAXI AREA - SELECTED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. DIRECTIONAL CONTROL - NOT POSSIBLE - PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #2: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT  
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

4. OBJECT - TREE(S)

## Factual Information

On March 3, 1998, at 1700 Alaska standard time, a ski equipped Cessna 180H airplane, N4751U, sustained substantial damage when its left wing impacted trees during landing roll at the Tatitna landing strip, Tatitna, Alaska. The commercial certificated pilot and the one passenger aboard were not injured. The flight was conducted under 14 CFR Part 91 as a personal flight from Rainbow Lake in Big Lake, Alaska, to Tatitna. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed at the time of the accident, and a VFR flight plan was filed.

The pilot stated to the NTSB investigator that during his landing roll, the airplane's skis encountered a snow machine rut, and began to track to the left. The pilot said he applied power and full right rudder, but the left wing contacted willow trees on the side of the 1,200 feet long by 12 feet wide, snow covered landing strip.

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	54, 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>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	Airplane single-engine	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 3 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	March 2, 1998
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	UNK	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	7870 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1315 hours (Total, this make and model), 4 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Cessna	<b>Registration:</b>	N4751U
<b>Model/Series:</b>	180H 180H	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	51451
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Ski	<b>Seats:</b>	4
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	February 6, 1998 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	2800 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	10 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	6088 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Continental
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-470
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	DANIEL W. PLANO	<b>Rated Power:</b>	230 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>		<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None
<b>Operator Does Business As:</b>		<b>Operator Designator Code:</b>	

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>		<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Observation Time:</b>		<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Visibility</b>	
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	/	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	0°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	1°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	RAINBOW LAKE , AK	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	VFR
<b>Destination:</b>	(AK48)	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	14:00 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	TATITNA AK48	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Snow
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	1490 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Holes;Snow
<b>Runway Used:</b>	6	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	1200 ft / 12 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Full stop;Valley/terrain following

## 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>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	2 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	63.610229,-154.779632(est)

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Thomas, Matthew

**Additional Participating Persons:** BOYD B WALTMAN; ANCHORAGE , AK

**Original Publish Date:** December 8, 1998

**Last Revision Date:**

**Investigation Class:** [Class](#)

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=3118>

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