



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	ALEXANDER RIVER, Alaska	Accident Number:	ANC87LA083
Date & Time:	June 19, 1987, 15:30 Local	Registration:	N5349G
Aircraft:	de Havilland DHC-2	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	5 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air taxi & commuter - Non-scheduled		

Analysis

THE PILOT STATED THAT DURING THE TAKEOFF RUN THE LEFT FLOAT CONTACTED A HIDDEN SAND BAR. THE AIRCRAFT THEN NOSED OVER ON ITS BACK.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Findings

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

Findings

1. (C) UNSUITABLE TERRAIN OR TAKEOFF/LANDING/TAXI AREA - NOT IDENTIFIED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (C) TERRAIN CONDITION - HIDDEN OBSTRUCTION(S)

Occurrence #2: NOSE OVER
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - ROLL/RUN

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline transport; Flight instructor	Age:	65, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; 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	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	March 23, 1987
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	15000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2500 hours (Total, this make and model), 15000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 175 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 100 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	de Havilland	Registration:	N5349G
Model/Series:	DHC-2 DHC-2	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	812
Landing Gear Type:	Float	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	May 1, 1987 Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	5090 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	50 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	P&W
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	R-985-AN39
Registered Owner:	LINDEY H. KETCHUM	Rated Power:	450 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand air taxi (135)
Operator Does Business As:	KETCHUM AIR SERVICE	Operator Designator Code:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:		Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:	15:30 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 3500 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 3500 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	0°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	16°C / 4°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	Company VFR
Destination:	ANCHORAGE , AK (ANC)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	00:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:		Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	4 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	5 None	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Michelangelo, James

Additional Participating Persons:

Original Publish Date: March 10, 1988

Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: [Class](#)

Note:

Investigation Docket: <https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=4860>

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant events in other modes of transportation—railroad, transit, highway, marine, pipeline, and commercial space. We determine the probable causes of the accidents and events we investigate, and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future occurrences. In addition, we conduct transportation safety research studies and offer information and other assistance to family members and survivors for each accident or event we investigate. We also serve as the appellate authority for enforcement actions involving aviation and mariner certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and US Coast Guard, and we adjudicate appeals of civil penalty actions taken by the FAA.

The NTSB does not assign fault or blame for an accident or incident; rather, as specified by NTSB regulation, “accident/incident investigations are fact-finding proceedings with no formal issues and no adverse parties ... and are not conducted for the purpose of determining the rights or liabilities of any person” (Title 49 *Code of Federal Regulations* section 831.4). Assignment of fault or legal liability is not relevant to the NTSB’s statutory mission to improve transportation safety by investigating accidents and incidents and issuing safety recommendations. In addition, statutory language prohibits the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report (Title 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b)). A factual report that may be admissible under 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b) is available [here](#).