



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Nenana, Alaska	Accident Number:	ANC09CA044
Date & Time:	May 16, 2009, 16:40 Local	Registration:	N2031U
Aircraft:	Maule M-4-220C	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Abnormal runway contact	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The solo private pilot reported he was landing a tailwheel-equipped airplane on a dry hard-surfaced runway, at the completion of a Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations Part 91 personal flight. He said that during touchdown the airplane bounced slightly and he added engine power to cushion the landing. As the airplane touched down again, a gust of wind pushed the airplane's tail to the left, and the airplane ground looped to the right. The airplane's left main landing gear leg collapsed, and the left wing struck the ground. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the left wing and fuselage. The pilot said there were no preaccident mechanical problems with the airplane, and noted in his report to the NTSB that the airplane had recently been converted from skis to wheels. He said that he should have flown with a flight instructor before attempting a flight in a wheel-equipped airplane, or selected a grass or gravel landing site.

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 directional control while landing, resulting in a ground loop and substantial damage to the airplane.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Environmental issues	Variable wind - Not specified

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-flare/touchdown	Abnormal runway contact (Defining event)
Landing-flare/touchdown	Loss of control on ground

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	56, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	November 5, 2007
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	111 hours (Total, all aircraft), 7 hours (Total, this make and model), 49 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Maule	Registration:	N2031U
Model/Series:	M-4-220C	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	2019C
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	February 5, 2009 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:	144 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2022 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	FRANKLIN
ELT:	C91 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	6V 350 SERIES
Registered Owner:	SWINGLE SCOTT	Rated Power:	235 Horsepower
Operator:	Thomas Payer	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	ENN,362 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:		Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	6 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	50°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.06 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	13°C / -8°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Fairbanks, AK (AK28)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Nenana, AK (ENN)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	16:07 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Nenana Municipal Airport ENN	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	362 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	04L	IFR Approach:	Visual
Runway Length/Width:	4600 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Stop and go

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	64.541664,-149.071105(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Johnson, Clinton
Additional Participating Persons:	James Lance; Federal Aviation Administration; Fairbanks, AK
Original Publish Date:	September 30, 2009
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=73855

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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](#).