



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	Beluga, Alaska	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ANC11CA106
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	September 23, 2011, 10:30 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N78564
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Piper PA-12	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Collision during takeoff/land	<b>Injuries:</b>	2 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

The pilot elected to take off uphill from a remote site due to a light wind coming down the slope. He said that during the takeoff roll, the airplane hit a bump and became airborne prematurely. The airplane was unable to outclimb the rising terrain and vegetation. After the main landing gear encountered high vegetation, the airplane slowed, impacted terrain, and nosed over, sustaining substantial damage to the wings. There were no mechanical problems with the airplane prior to the accident.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's decision to take off uphill into rising terrain.

## Findings

<b>Personnel issues</b>	Decision making/judgment - Pilot
<b>Environmental issues</b>	Rough terrain - Contributed to outcome
<b>Aircraft</b>	Takeoff distance - Capability exceeded

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

<b>Takeoff</b>	Collision during takeoff/land (Defining event)
<b>Takeoff</b>	Nose over/nose down

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	37, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Front
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 3 With waivers/limitations	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	March 10, 2008
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	January 30, 2010
<b>Flight Time:</b>	632 hours (Total, all aircraft), 553 hours (Total, this make and model), 328 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 60 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 43 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 0 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Piper	<b>Registration:</b>	N78564
<b>Model/Series:</b>	PA-12	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	12-3939
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	3
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	October 6, 2010 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1750 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	3797 Hrs at time of accident	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>	C91A installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-320 SERIES
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	KNUTSON TAD T	<b>Rated Power:</b>	160 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	KNUTSON TAD T	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## 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>	50 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	5 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	350°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>		<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	7°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>			
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Beluga, AK	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	Beluga, AK	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	10:30 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	

## 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>	55.919685,-159.490005(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Lewis, Lawrence
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Steven W Wolletz; FAA FSDO-03; Anchorage, AK
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	December 27, 2011
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class</a>
<b>Note:</b>	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=81882">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=81882</a>

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