



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	Palmer, Alaska	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ANC15CA019
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	April 1, 2015, 14:15 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N3885Q
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Cessna A185F	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Loss of control on ground	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

The pilot was landing to the south on a gravel runway in his tailwheel-equipped Cessna 185 airplane. During the landing rollout, a wind gust from the east was encountered and the pilot was unable to maintain directional control. The airplane entered a ground loop, sustaining substantial damage to the right wing. The pilot stated there were no preaccident mechanical malfunctions or anomalies with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's loss of directional control during landing, resulting in a collision with terrain.

## Findings

<b>Personnel issues</b>	Aircraft control - Pilot
<b>Aircraft</b>	Directional control - Not attained/maintained

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

<b>Landing</b>	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
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### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	56
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	4-point
<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>	May 23, 2014
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	February 11, 2015
<b>Flight Time:</b>	(Estimated) 111 hours (Total, all aircraft), 111 hours (Total, this make and model), 49 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 28 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 9 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Cessna	<b>Registration:</b>	N3885Q
<b>Model/Series:</b>	A185F F	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	1973	<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	18502207
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	4
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	October 16, 2014 100 hour	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	3350 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	1020.3 Hrs at time of accident	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Continental Motors
<b>ELT:</b>	C126 installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	IO-520D
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	CRUZ DAVID C	<b>Rated Power:</b>	300 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	CRUZ DAVID C	<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>	PAAQ,242 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	0 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	20:53 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>		<b>Visibility</b>	10 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Broken / 10000 ft AGL	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	18 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/ Unknown
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	130°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/ Unknown
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29.79 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	4°C / -2°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	SKWENTNA, AK (SKW )	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	VFR
<b>Destination:</b>	Palmer, AK (PAQ )	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	VFR
<b>Departure Time:</b>	12:00 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	PALMER MUNI PAQ	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Gravel
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	242 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Rough
<b>Runway Used:</b>	16S	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	1560 ft / 60 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Full stop

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	61.596668,-149.088058(est)

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Williams, David

**Additional Participating Persons:**

**Original Publish Date:** May 13, 2015

**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.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=90992>

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