



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Talkeetna, Alaska	Accident Number:	GAA17CA539
Date & Time:	September 16, 2017, 16:30 Local	Registration:	N123LR
Aircraft:	Cessna A185	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	4 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot of the tailwheel-equipped airplane reported that, during landing, after a stabilized approach, the airplane touched down on the main landing gear (MLG) first for a wheel landing. The airplane bounced twice, and shortly before the tail settled on the ground, the "crosswind increased causing the aircraft to weathervane to the left." He added that he increased left aileron and right rudder to keep the airplane on the gravel airstrip; however, the "wind gust then all but stopped as the tailwheel settled to the ground causing the aircraft to turn rapidly to the right." He further added that he increased left rudder and brake, but the MLG started to depart the gravel airstrip and enter the softer shoulder. The "tail swung to the left of the aircraft direction of travel," and he was unable to correct the continued tightening right turn. Subsequently, the airplane rolled onto the left wing and left horizontal stabilizer and came to rest on the MLG.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the left wing and left horizontal stabilizer.

The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

The pilot reported the wind at the accident site, about the time of the accident, as variable, gusting to 10 knots. The pilot landed to the northeast.

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 in gusting wind conditions.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Environmental issues	Gusts - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Landing	Dragged wing/rotor/float/other

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	37, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	4-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	BasicMed	Last FAA Medical Exam:	May 10, 2017
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	April 26, 2016
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 332 hours (Total, all aircraft), 29 hours (Total, this make and model), 279 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 31 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 11 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N123LR
Model/Series:	A185 E	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1969	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	185-1589
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	January 19, 2017 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3350 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3852 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	C126 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO-550D2B
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	300 Horsepower
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PATK,350 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	25 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	00:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	84°
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 10000 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	29.27 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	16°C / 4°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	CHUGIAK, AK (AK24)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Talkeetna, AK	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	3 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	4 None	Latitude, Longitude:	62.276111,-150.979995(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Swenson, Eric
Additional Participating Persons:	Kim McCartney; FAA; Anchorage, AK
Original Publish Date:	December 15, 2017
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=96027

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