



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location: Takotna, Alaska Accident Number: GAA19CA286

Date & Time: May 25, 2019, 17:00 Local Registration: N3EH

Aircraft: Cessna 180 Aircraft Damage: Substantial

Defining Event: Loss of control on ground **Injuries:** 1 None

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General aviation - Personal

Analysis

The pilot reported that, about the time he started rotation, the airplane veered right, the right wing contacted some brush, and the airplane impacted vegetation. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the left wing. The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions 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 failure to maintain directional control during the takeoff, which resulted in impact with vegetation.

Findings

Aircraft Directional control - Not attained/maintained

Personnel issues Aircraft control - Pilot

Environmental issues Tree(s) - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Takeoff	Runway excursion
Takeoff	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	44,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Unknown
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	October 24, 2018
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	July 20, 2018
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 6900 hours (Total, all aircraft), 3722 hours (Total, this make and model), 6900 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 90 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 15 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

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Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N3EH
Model/Series:	180 D	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1961	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	18051020
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	May 20, 2019 100 hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2960 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	8945.5 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-470-R81B
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	230 Horsepower
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand air taxi (135)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PATL,964 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	13 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	00:55 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	121°
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 3900 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	29.61 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	13°C / 6°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Tatitna, AK (8KA)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	Company VFR
Destination:	Takotna, AK (A77)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	09:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

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Airport Information

Airport:	Yankee Creek 2 A77	Runway Surface Type:	Dirt;Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	1120 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Soft;Vegetation
Runway Used:	31	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	1560 ft / 16 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

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:	63.001945,-156.367218(est)

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Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Gutierrez, Eric
Additional Participating Persons:	Anthony Mattingly; FAA; Anchorage, AK
Original Publish Date:	April 13, 2020
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	<u>Class</u>
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=99495

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.

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