



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	BETHEL, AK	Accident Number:	ANC97LA010
Date & Time:	12/04/1996, 0954 AST	Registration:	N20024
Aircraft:	Cessna 172M	Injuries:	3 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter - Non-scheduled		

Analysis

The pilot and two passengers were departing on a cross-country on-demand charter flight. The airplane was 120 pounds below maximum gross weight. The pilot departed runway 11, but after lift off, the airplane would not climb. The airplane collided with snow covered tundra terrain about 1/8 mile from the departure end of the runway. The operator indicated the pilot and a mechanic passenger observed the airplane lights flicker on and off, and smelled an odor of overheated electrical wiring. An inspection of the airplane by the FAA did not reveal any mechanical malfunction. The wind conditions at the airport, from just before and just after the accident, varied from 300 to 312 degrees at 9 knots.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the pilot's improper planning/decision, and resultant failure to obtain/maintain sufficient airspeed during takeoff. A factor related the accident was: taking off with a tailwind.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF

Findings

1. (C) PLANNING/DECISION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - TAILWIND
3. (C) AIRSPEED - NOT OBTAINED/MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (C) STALL/MUSH - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	39
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	1200 hours (Total, all aircraft), 400 hours (Total, this make and model), 1180 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 170 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 100 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N20024
Model/Series:	172M 172M	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	VILLAGE AVIATION	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand Air Taxi (135)	Engine Model/Series:	O-320-E2D
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter - Non-scheduled		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	BET, 123 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	9 knots / , 330°
Temperature:	-20° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	(BET)	Destination:	NAPASKIAK, AK (PKA)

Airport Information

Airport:	BETHEL (BET)	Runway Surface Type:	Gravel
Runway Used:	11	Runway Surface Condition:	Snow--compacted
Runway Length/Width:	1850 ft / 75 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	2 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None

Latitude, Longitude:

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	SCOTT R ERICKSON	Adopted Date:	03/31/1998
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at pubinq@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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