



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	COLDFOOT, AK	Accident Number:	ANC98LA034
Date & Time:	04/03/1998, 1900 AST	Registration:	N1205F
Aircraft:	Cessna 185F	Injuries:	3 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter - Non-scheduled		

Analysis

The pilot, and two passengers, were taxiing for takeoff in a wheel/ski equipped, tailwheel airplane. The flight was a VFR air taxi flight from a remote lake. The landing/departure area was about 3,500 feet long, and covered by soft snow. As the pilot began to taxi, he noticed the snow was softer than anticipated, so he began several taxi runs to pack down the snow for takeoff. During a turn, the right ski encountered soft snow and sank. The right wing struck the snow, and the airplane nosed over. The airplane received damage to the right wing, and propeller.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's selection of unsuitable terrain for takeoff. Soft, snow covered terrain was a factor in the accident.

Findings

Occurrence #1: ON GROUND/WATER ENCOUNTER WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: TAXI

Findings

1. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - SNOW COVERED
 2. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - SOFT
 3. (C) UNSUITABLE TERRAIN OR TAKEOFF/LANDING/TAXI AREA - SELECTED - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: NOSE OVER
Phase of Operation: TAXI

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	32
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	971 hours (Total, all aircraft), 146 hours (Total, this make and model), 900 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 138 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 29 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N1205F
Model/Series:	185F 185F	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	NORTH QUEST AVIATION	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand Air Taxi (135)	Engine Model/Series:	IO-520-D
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:	, 0 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Pilot
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots / , 180°
Temperature:	10° C	Visibility	50 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:		Destination:	CHANDALAR LAKE, AK (WCR)

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:	02/15/2001
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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