



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	WASILLA, AK	Accident Number:	ANC89LA001
Date & Time:	10/01/1988, 2025 AKD	Registration:	N420SB
Aircraft:	CESSNA 180	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	3 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

DRG ARRIVAL TO LAND ON A LAKE AT NIGHT, THE PLT BEGAN A 180 DEG TURN FROM A NE HEADING AT APRX 500' AGL TO A FINAL APCH ON A SW HEADING. AS THE ACFT WAS IN THE TURN, IT BEGAN LOSING ALTITUDE RAPIDLY. THE PLT APPLIED POWER TO STOP THE DESCENT, BUT THE ACFT STRUCK TREES AT THE EDGE OF THE LAKE. THE PLT SAID THE ACFT'S FORWARD MOTION HAD BEEN NEARLY STOPPED BY THE TREES BY THE TIME IT DROPPED & CAME TO REST AT THE EDGE OF THE LAKE.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - FINAL APPROACH

Findings

1. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
2. (C) PLANNING/DECISION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) VISUAL/AURAL PERCEPTION - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (F) OVERCONFIDENCE IN PERSONAL ABILITY - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (C) PLANNED APPROACH - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. (F) OBJECT - TREE(S)
7. (C) ALTITUDE - MISJUDGED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	47, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	06/10/1987
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	2544 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1100 hours (Total, this make and model), 2540 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 146 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 55 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N420SB
Model/Series:	180 180	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	18052313
Landing Gear Type:	Float	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	03/03/1988, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2800 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	77 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3337 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-470
Registered Owner:	BOBBY GRAHAM	Rated Power:	230 hp
Operator:	GRAHAM, BOBBY	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0000	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Visibility	50 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	170°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	7°C / 3°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	LAKE ILIAMNA, AK	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1730 ADT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

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
Total Injuries:	3 None	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	JAMES MICHELANGELO	Report Date:	07/03/1989
Additional Participating Persons:			
Publish Date:			
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 pubinquiry@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).