



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	KWETHLUK, AK	Accident Number:	ANC87LA134
Date & Time:	09/02/1987, 1305 AKD	Registration:	N7233K
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-18	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Aerial Observation		

Analysis

THE PILOT STATED THAT HE WAS FLYING A SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSION FOR A MISSING AIRCRAFT WHEN HE NOTICED THAT HIS AIRSPEED INDICATOR WAS NOT WORKING. HE LANDED ON A LAKE IN GUSTY WIND CONDITIONS TO CORRECT THE PROBLEM. DURING THE ENSUING TAKEOFF ATTEMPT, A GUST OF WIND LIFTED THE LEFT WING AND THE RIGHT WING CONTACTED THE WATER, CAUSING THE AIRPLANE TO NOSE OVER. PILOT STATED HE WOULD NOT HAVE FLOWN IN WIND CONDITIONS EXCEPT THAT THE MISSION WAS TO HELP SEARCH FOR FELLOW PILOT.

Probable Cause

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - ON GROUND/WATER
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - ROLL/RUN

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - GUSTS
 2. (C) COMPENSATION FOR WIND CONDITIONS - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
 3. (F) SELF-INDUCED PRESSURE - PILOT IN COMMAND
 4. (F) JUDGMENT - POOR - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: NOSE OVER
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - ROLL/RUN

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	55
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	479 hours (Total, all aircraft), 479 hours (Total, this make and model), 418 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 7 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N7233K
Model/Series:	PA-18 PA-18	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	EVERETT F PRINCE	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-320
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Aerial Observation		

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:	Overcast / 1000 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	15 knots / 18 knots, 150°
Temperature:	11° C	Visibility	20 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Destination:		

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	JAMES D LA BELLE	Adopted Date:	05/27/1988
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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