



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	KOTZEBUE, AK	Accident Number:	ANC86LA119
Date & Time:	08/01/1986, 1500 AKD	Registration:	N6169V
Aircraft:	LAKE LA-4	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 None

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation - Personal

Analysis

DURING THE CLIMBOUT OVER THE MOUNTAIN RIDGE, THE AIRCRAFT BEGAN TO LOSE ALTITUDE EVENTUALLY CONTACTING THE EDGE OF THE RIDGE. AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT STRONG WINDS AND HEAVY RAIN WAS REPORTED IN THE AREA.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: CLIMB - TO CRUISE

Findings

1. (C) AIRCRAFT PERFORMANCE, CLIMB CAPABILITY - EXCEEDED
 2. (C) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
 3. (C) WEATHER EVALUATION - MISJUDGED - PILOT IN COMMAND
 4. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - DOWNDRAFT
 5. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - HIGH WIND
 6. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - RAIN
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Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

7. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - HIGH TERRAIN

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	53, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	12/04/1985
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	7530 hours (Total, all aircraft), 630 hours (Total, this make and model), 630 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 120 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 75 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	LAKE	Registration:	N6169V
Model/Series:	LA-4 LA-4	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	822
Landing Gear Type:	Amphibian	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	04/04/1986, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2600 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	59 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1153 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, activated, aided in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	IO-360-A1B
Registered Owner:	WILLIAM C. LATHAM	Rated Power:	200 hp
Operator:	WILLIAM C. LATHAM	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0000	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 1800 ft agl	Visibility	3 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 1800 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	15 knots / 20 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	120°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	10° C / 9° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	KOTZEBUE, AK (OTZ)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	VFR
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1330 ADT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

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
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	JAMES MICHELANGELO	Report Date:	
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](#).