



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Willow, AK	Accident Number:	ANC01LA079
Date & Time:	07/02/2001, 0645 AKD	Registration:	N4989A
Aircraft:	Cessna 180	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The certificated private pilot stated that about 15 minutes after departure, while in level, cruise flight, the engine began to run rough, so he elected to make a precautionary landing on a remote lake. After landing, while taxiing to shore, flames erupted from under the engine cowling, and quickly spread throughout the cabin of the airplane. The pilot was unable to bring the fire under control, and was eventually forced to abandon the airplane, and swim to shore. An FAA inspector examined the airplane at the accident scene, and reported that the fire totally consumed the main fuselage, engine nacelle, and both inboard portions of the wings. He added that the engine eventually fell into the water, but was later recovered. The inspector reported that due to the substantial amount of fire damage, he was not able to discern the origin of the fire.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: A fire of undetermined origin, following a precautionary landing.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER
Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

Findings

1. PRECAUTIONARY LANDING - PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: FIRE
Phase of Operation: TAXI - FROM LANDING

Findings

2. (C) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	50
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	1000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N4989A
Model/Series:	180	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Philip D. Horton	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-470
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:		Weather Information Source:	Pilot
Lowest Ceiling:		Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	10 knots / , 90°
Temperature:		Visibility	50 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Willow, AK (UUO)	Destination:	Wasilla, AK (WAS)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:	61.757500, -150.052778		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Clinton O Johnson	Adopted Date:	06/03/2002
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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