



## National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Factual Report

---

<b>Location:</b>	TALKEETNA, AK	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ANC02LA067
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	07/02/2002, 1400 AKD	<b>Registration:</b>	N1129A
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Piper PA-18	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	2 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

---

On July 2, 2002, about 1400 Alaska daylight time, a float-equipped Piper PA-18 airplane, N1129A, sustained substantial damage when it collided with an embankment after encountering turbulence while maneuvering along a river, about 15 miles northeast of Talkeetna, Alaska. The airplane was being operated as a visual flight rules (VFR,) local-area personal flight, when the accident occurred. The airplane was operated by the pilot. The private certificated pilot, and the sole passenger, were not injured. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed. The flight originated from Talkeetna about 1215.

During a telephone conversation with the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigator-in-charge (IIC), on July 2, the pilot reported that he departed Christensen Lake, Talkeetna, and was searching for a lost hiker along the Sheep River, east of Talkeetna. The pilot said he was flying between 500 to 1,000 feet above the ground, and was returning to Talkeetna. During the flight, the pilot said he encountered moderate turbulence that was being produced in the canyons along the river. Just before the accident, the pilot said a strong gust of wind yawed the airplane sideways, and lifted the left wing. The airplane descended toward the ground. The pilot leveled the airplane just before the float assembly collided with alder bushes along the bank of the river. The airplane then did a cartwheel and came to rest facing opposite the initial direction of travel. The airplane received damage to the float assembly, fuselage, and wings.

At 1353, an Aviation Routine Weather Report (METAR) at Talkeetna was reporting in part: Wind, 200 degrees (true) at 10 knots; visibility, 10 statute miles; clouds and sky condition, 2,300 feet broken, 2,800 feet overcast; temperature, 61 degrees F; dew point, 48 degrees F; altimeter, 30.03 inHg.

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	48, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Front
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	03/06/2001
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>		<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	08/19/2001
<b>Flight Time:</b>	1750 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Piper	<b>Registration:</b>	N1129A
<b>Model/Series:</b>	PA-18	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	No
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal; Utility	<b>Serial Number:</b>	18-722
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Float	<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	03/05/2002, Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1750 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	76 Hours	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	3391 Hours at time of accident	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-320-A2A
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	WILLIAM J. FITZGERALD	<b>Rated Power:</b>	150
<b>Operator:</b>	WILLIAM J. FITZGERALD	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PATK, 358 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	15 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1353 ADT	Direction from Accident Site:	225°
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 2300 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	10 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	176°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.03 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	16° C / 9° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	TALKEETNA, AK	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1215 ADT	Type of Airspace:	Class E

## 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:	62.366111, -149.626389

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	SCOTT ERICKSON
Additional Participating Persons:	RICHARD MAHL; FAA-AL-ANC FSDO 03; ANCHORAGE, AK
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 <a href="mailto:pubinq@ntsb.gov">pubinq@ntsb.gov</a> , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/</a> .