



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	TALKEETNA, AK	Accident Number:	ANC02LA067
Date & Time:	07/02/2002, 1400 AKD	Registration:	N1129A
Aircraft:	Piper PA-18	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The private certificated pilot was searching for a lost hiker along a river drainage in a float-equipped airplane. The pilot said he was maneuvering between 500 to 1,000 feet above the ground and had encountered 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.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's inadequate weather evaluation, which resulted in a turbulence encounter and subsequent collision with a river embankment during maneuvering flight. A contributing factor was the presence of terrain induced turbulence.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - TURBULENCE, TERRAIN INDUCED
2. (C) WEATHER EVALUATION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

3. TERRAIN CONDITION - DIRT BANK/RISING EMBANKMENT

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	48
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	1750 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N1129A
Model/Series:	PA-18	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	WILLIAM J. FITZGERALD	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-320-A2A
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:	PATK, 358 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 2300 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	10 knots / , 176°
Temperature:	16° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	TALKEETNA, AK	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:	62.366111, -149.626389		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	SCOTT ERICKSON	Adopted Date:	04/01/2003
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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