



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Port Alsworth, AK	Accident Number:	ANC03LA011
Date & Time:	11/03/2002, 1310 AST	Registration:	N32TN
Aircraft:	Douglas DC-3	Injuries:	3 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter - Non-scheduled		

Analysis

A Douglas DC-3 airplane was landing at a privately owned airstrip. The operator's general manager reported that during a prelanding inspection of the airstrip, both pilots noticed a large tractor parked alongside the approach end of the airstrip, and planned to fly an approach accordingly. As the approach phase of the landing continued, the flight encountered a slight downdraft as the airplane passed over the approach end of airstrip. During the slight descent, just before touchdown, the airplane's left wing struck a 25-foot high iron mast that was attached to the parked tractor, severing about 14 feet of the airplane's outboard left wing. After the collision, the crew was able to complete the landing. Both flight crew members reported that they were unaware the 25-foot high iron mast was attached to the tractor.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The flightcrew's failure to maintain clearance while landing, which resulted in an in-flight collision with a 25-foot high iron mast. Contributing factors were a downdraft, and a 25-foot high iron mast attached to a tractor.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - DOWNDRAFT
2. (C) CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - FLIGHTCREW
3. (F) OBJECT - VEHICLE

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	51
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine; Instrument Airplane
Flight Time:	9000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 49 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Co-Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport	Age:	53
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	15000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 60 hours (Total, this make and model), 28 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Douglas	Registration:	N32TN
Model/Series:	DC-3	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Operator:	TRANSNORTHERN AVIATION INC	Engine Manufacturer:	Wright
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand Air Taxi (135)	Engine Model/Series:	1820-80
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter - Non-scheduled		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:		Weather Information Source:	Pilot
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 7500 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	20 knots / 30 knots, 30°
Temperature:	15°C	Visibility	20 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Anchorage, AK (ANC)	Destination:	Port Alsworth, AK

Airport Information

Airport:	Port Alsworth	Runway Surface Type:	Gravel
Runway Used:	5L	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	4000 ft / 200 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:	60.183333, -154.333333		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Clinton O Johnson

Adopted Date: 07/23/2003

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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