



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Soldotna, AK	Accident Number:	ANC03LA016
Date & Time:	12/01/2002, 1200 AST	Registration:	N270JS
Aircraft:	Piper J5A	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The flight departed on runway 07, and the pilot started a right climbing turn when the airplane's engine lost power. The pilot applied carburetor heat, and checked the position of the fuel tank selector, but he could not restart the engine. About 200 feet above ground level, he turned toward the runway. The airplane landed hard on the runway, the left main landing gear collapsed, and the left wing struck the runway. There were no known mechanical anomalies with the airplane prior to the accident. The mechanic who recovered the airplane removed more than a pint of water from the right wing fuel sump. The pilot said he fueled the airplane with 87-octane auto gas from 5-gallon cans prior to the flight. He further said he should have strained the fuel through a water trap filter.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to remove all water from the airplane's fuel supply during the preflight inspection, which resulted in a loss of engine power and subsequent hard landing.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - NONMECHANICAL
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. (C) FLUID,FUEL - CONTAMINATION,WATER
2. (C) AIRCRAFT PREFLIGHT - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY LANDING AFTER TAKEOFF

Occurrence #3: HARD LANDING
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY LANDING AFTER TAKEOFF

Occurrence #4: MAIN GEAR COLLAPSED
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY LANDING AFTER TAKEOFF

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	47
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	1180 hours (Total, all aircraft), 500 hours (Total, this make and model), 1120 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 20 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N270JS
Model/Series:	J5A	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	James R. Babcock	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-290D
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:	PASX, 100 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 100 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	3 knots / , 90°
Temperature:	-1 °C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Soldotna, AK (SXQ)	Destination:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Soldotna (SXQ)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	07	Runway Surface Condition:	Ice
Runway Length/Width:	5000 ft / 130 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:	60.476111, -151.032500		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Lawrence R Lewis

Adopted Date: 06/25/2003

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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