



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Glennallen, AK	Accident Number:	ANC07LA018
Date & Time:	02/01/2007, 0945 AST	Registration:	N3233M
Aircraft:	Piper PA-12	Injuries:	1 Minor, 1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The commercial certificated pilot was maneuvering to land his ski-equipped airplane on a snow-covered lake during a Title 14, CFR Part 91, personal flight. The pilot reported that he and his passenger were scouting the area for a wolf hunt, and decided to land on a remote frozen lake. While making a slight left turn toward the landing area, he said he encountered a windshear about 20 feet above the ground. He said the airplane was configured with 20 degrees of flaps, and the airspeed was about 45 mph. The pilot indicated the left wing stalled, and the airplane descended, colliding with the surface of the lake. The airplane received structural damage to the left wing, fuselage, and landing gear. The pilot described the wind conditions as light and variable winds, with no gusts. He also indicated that the wind shifted several times after the accident.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to maintain adequate airspeed to preclude a stall while maneuvering, which resulted in an uncontrolled descent and subsequent collision with terrain. Factors contributing to the accident were variable wind conditions, and an inadvertent stall.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - VARIABLE WIND
2. (C) AIRSPEED(VS) - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) STALL - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

4. TERRAIN CONDITION - SNOW COVERED

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	45
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	7000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1500 hours (Total, this make and model), 6200 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 15 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 11 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	Piper	Registration:	N3233M
Model/Series:	PA-12	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	On file	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	On-demand Air Taxi (135)	Engine Model/Series:	O-320-B2D
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:		Weather Information Source:	Pilot
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Light and Variable, Variable
Temperature:	-9° C	Visibility	60 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Glennallen, AK (PAGK)	Destination:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Scott Erickson	Adopted Date:	05/29/2007
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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