



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Talkeetna, AK	Accident Number:	ANC07CA042
Date & Time:	06/01/2007, 1100 AKD	Registration:	N6760B
Aircraft:	Piper PA-18	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The solo private pilot was landing at a remote airstrip on a Title 14, CFR Part 91, cross-country personal flight. The pilot said that the gravel-covered airstrip was about 800 feet long and about 20 feet wide, and he inadvertently allowed the airplane to touchdown about midway on the site. He attempted to abort the landing by abruptly advancing the throttle, but the engine was unable to produce full power before the airplane contacted high brush and trees at the departure end of the site. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the wings, fuselage, and empennage. The pilot reported no preaccident mechanical anomalies.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's delay in aborting the landing, which resulted in an in-flight collision with trees.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ABORTED

Findings

1. OBJECT - TREE(S)
2. AIRPORT FACILITIES, RUNWAY/LANDING AREA CONDITION - SHORT RUNWAY/LANDING AREA
3. (C) ABORTED LANDING - DELAYED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	60, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 With Waivers/Limitations	Last Medical Exam:	02/01/2005
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	10/01/2000
Flight Time:	2000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1700 hours (Total, this make and model), 2000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 12 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 12 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	Piper	Registration:	N6760B
Model/Series:	PA-18	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	18-5035
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	04/01/2007, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1750 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, activated, aided in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	O-320
Registered Owner:	Larry A. Vandegrift	Rated Power:	160 hp
Operator:	Larry A. Vandegrift	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:		Observation Time:	
Distance from Accident Site:		Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:		Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Thin Broken / 8000 ft agl	Temperature/Dew Point:	16 °C
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility	
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots, Variable	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:		Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Anchorage, AK (MRI)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Talkeetna, AK	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0930 ADT	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:		Runway Surface Type:	Gravel
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	20	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	800 ft / 20 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

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
Total Injuries:	1 None		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Clinton O Johnson	Adopted Date:	07/25/2007
Additional Participating Persons:	William K Bohman; Anchorage FSDO		
Publish Date:			
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
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/ .		

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report.