



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Bettles, AK	Accident Number:	ANC09CA027
Date & Time:	04/02/2009, 1700 AKD	Registration:	N2801K
Aircraft:	CESSNA 180K	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The commercial pilot reported that he was landing on the frozen snow-covered lake in a ski-equipped airplane. During the landing roll the airplane's main landing gear skis encountered a snowdrift, which stripped the nuts that connect the skis to the main landing gear axle. Both skis separated and the airplane's left main landing gear leg collapsed. The left wing struck the snow-covered frozen lake. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the left wing and fuselage. The pilot said that there were no preaccident mechanical problems with the airplane, and noted in his report to the NTSB that he should have inspected the landing site before landing, then selected a better area to land on.

Flight Events

Landing - Abnormal runway contact
Landing-landing roll - Landing gear collapse

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:
The pilot's selection of an unsuitable landing area.

Findings

Personnel issues-Action/decision-Info processing/decision-Decision making/judgment-Pilot - C
Environmental issues-Physical environment-Terrain-Rough terrain-Contributed to outcome

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	53
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	1671 hours (Total, all aircraft), 190 hours (Total, this make and model), 1640 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	CESSNA	Registration:	N2801K
Model/Series:	180K	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	CARRIER TIMOTHY LEVITE	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-470 SERIES
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:	Calm
Temperature:	-7° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Fairbanks, AK (PAFA)	Destination:	Bettles, AK

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Clinton O Johnson	Adopted Date:	07/28/2009
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/ .		

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