



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Skwentna, AK	Accident Number:	ANC09CA076
Date & Time:	08/01/2009, 1800 AKD	Registration:	N7509K
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-18	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The private pilot reported that he was landing his tailwheel-equipped airplane at his remote, 650-foot-long private airstrip, at the conclusion of a personal cross-country flight operated under Title 14, Code of Federal Regulations Part 91. He said that wind conditions required an easterly approach, over an area of stump-covered, down sloping terrain. During the approach, the airplane's right main wheel struck a tree stump at the approach end of the site, and the airplane subsequently nosed over. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the wings, fuselage, and empennage. The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical problems with the airplane. In his written report to the NTSB, the pilot noted that the accident might have been avoided if he had waited until wind conditions allowed for a different approach, or if he had waited to reduce engine power after clearance with the stump was ensured.

Flight Events

Approach-VFR pattern final - Collision during takeoff/land
Landing-flare/touchdown - Nose over/nose down

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's misjudged landing on a downsloping, short landing strip, resulting in a nose over.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-Descent/approach/glide path-Not attained/maintained - C
Personnel issues-Action/decision-Info processing/decision-Decision making/judgment-Pilot - C
Environmental issues-Physical environment-Runway/land/takeoff/taxi surfa-(general)-Effect on operation

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	38
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	270 hours (Total, all aircraft), 270 hours (Total, this make and model), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	PIPER	Registration:	N7509K
Model/Series:	PA-18	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	NORD DEREK D	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-290 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:	Unknown
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots, 90°
Temperature:	16° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration		
Departure Point:	Anchorage, AK (MRI)	Destination:	Skwentna, 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:	12/29/2009
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=74435		

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