



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

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|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Location:</b>               | Koliganek, AK                              | <b>Accident Number:</b> | ANC09CA091  |
| <b>Date &amp; Time:</b>        | 09/02/2009, 1330 AKD                       | <b>Registration:</b>    | N6468V      |
| <b>Aircraft:</b>               | HELIO H-295                                | <b>Aircraft Damage:</b> | Substantial |
| <b>Defining Event:</b>         | Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)         | <b>Injuries:</b>        | 3 None      |
| <b>Flight Conducted Under:</b> | Part 91: General Aviation - Other Work Use |                         |             |

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## Analysis

The commercial pilot was on a Title 14, CFR Part 91, passenger flight in conjunction with his fish guiding business when the accident occurred. The pilot reported that he was flying about 700 feet above ground level in his float-equipped, single-engine airplane, when he began transferring fuel from the auxiliary fuel tank to the main fuel tank, and the engine lost power. After a failed attempt to restart the engine, he said he was forced to land the airplane on the tundra. The pilot said there were no known mechanical problems with the airplane prior to the accident. He further reported that it had been raining for several days, and he should have sumped the fuel tanks prior to takeoff. He also stated that he should have initiated the fuel transfer at a higher altitude over terrain that was suitable for landing. He said the float attachments and the fuselage were damaged during the accident.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: A loss of engine power during cruise flight due to water in the fuel, and the pilot's inadequate preflight inspection.

## Findings

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|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Aircraft</b>         | Fuel - Inadequate inspection (Cause)<br>Fuel - Fluid condition (Cause) |
| <b>Personnel issues</b> | Preflight inspection - Pilot (Cause)                                   |

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Enroute-cruise    | Fuel contamination<br>Loss of engine power (total)  |
| Emergency descent | Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT) (Defining event) |

### Pilot Information

|                           |  |                                   |                            |
|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Certificate:              | Commercial   | Age:                              | 65, Male                   |
| Airplane Rating(s):       | Multi-engine Land; Multi-engine Sea; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea   | Seat Occupied:                    | Left                       |
| Other Aircraft Rating(s): | None   | Restraint Used:                   | Seatbelt, Shoulder harness |
| Instrument Rating(s):     | Airplane   | Second Pilot Present:             | No                         |
| Instructor Rating(s):     | None   | Toxicology Performed:             | No                         |
| Medical Certification:    | Class 2 With Waivers/Limitations   | Last Medical Exam:                | 05/11/2009                 |
| Occupational Pilot:       | No   | Last Flight Review or Equivalent: | 05/12/2009                 |
| Flight Time:              | 16318 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1661 hours (Total, this make and model), 16243 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft) |                                   |                            |

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

|                               |                               |                                    |                 |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Aircraft Manufacturer:        | HELIO                         | Registration:                      | N6468V          |
| Model/Series:                 | H-295                         | Aircraft Category:                 | Airplane        |
| Year of Manufacture:          |                               | Amateur Built:                     | No              |
| Airworthiness Certificate:    | Normal                        | Serial Number:                     | 1424            |
| Landing Gear Type:            | Float                         | Seats:                             | 6               |
| Date/Type of Last Inspection: | 03/06/2009, Annual            | Certified Max Gross Wt.:           | 3800 lbs        |
| Time Since Last Inspection:   | 31 Hours                      | Engines:                           | 1 Reciprocating |
| Airframe Total Time:          | 7041 Hours                    | Engine Manufacturer:               | LYCOMING        |
| ELT:                          | C91A installed, not activated | Engine Model/Series:               | GO-480 SERIES   |
| Registered Owner:             | ALASKA SAFARI INC             | Rated Power:                       | 295 hp          |
| Operator:                     | Kirk Gay                      | Air Carrier Operating Certificate: | None            |
| Operator Does Business As:    | Valhalla Lodge                | Operator Designator Code:          |                 |

## 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:          |                         | Temperature/Dew Point:       | 13°C              |
| Lowest Ceiling:                  | Broken / 1200 ft agl    | Visibility                   | 5 Miles           |
| Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:     | 10 knots/ 15 knots, 90° | Visibility (RVR):            |                   |
| Altimeter Setting:               |                         | Visibility (RVV):            |                   |
| Precipitation and Obscuration:   |                         |                              |                   |
| Departure Point:                 | Nondalton, AK (NDN)     | Type of Flight Plan Filed:   | None              |
| Destination:                     | Nushagak, AK            | Type of Clearance:           | None              |
| Departure Time:                  | 0900 ADT                | Type of Airspace:            |                   |

## Wreckage and Impact Information

|                     |        |                     |             |
|---------------------|--------|---------------------|-------------|
| Crew Injuries:      | 1 None | Aircraft Damage:    | Substantial |
| Passenger Injuries: | 2 None | Aircraft Fire:      | None        |
| Ground Injuries:    | N/A    | Aircraft Explosion: | None        |
| Total Injuries:     | 3 None |                     |             |

## Administrative Information

|                                   |   |               |            |
|-----------------------------------|---|---------------|------------|
| Investigator In Charge (IIC):     | Lawrence Lewis  | Adopted Date: | 12/29/2009 |
| Additional Participating Persons: |   |               |            |
| Publish Date:                     | 12/31/2009  |               |            |
| Note:                             | This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.                               |               |            |
| Investigation Docket:             | <a href="http://dms.ntsb.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=74650">http://dms.ntsb.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=74650</a> |               |            |

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