



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Palmer, AK	Accident Number:	ANC10LA007
Date & Time:	11/03/2009, 1600 AST	Registration:	N1042A
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-18-160	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The solo commercial pilot was taking off from a gravel bar on a personal local flight when the accident occurred. The pilot said that he was taking off from a gravel bar when the left main landing gear tire struck a rock before collapsing. The left wing then struck the ground, resulting in structural damage to the wing. According to the pilot there were no mechanical problems with the airplane prior to the accident. The airplane was not examined by the NTSB.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:
The pilot's selection of unsuitable terrain for takeoff.

Findings

Personnel issues	Decision making/judgment - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Rough terrain - Contributed to outcome

Factual Information

On November 3, 2009, about 1600 Alaska standard time, a Piper PA-18-160 airplane, N1042A, sustained substantial damage during takeoff from a gravel bar, about 40 miles southeast of Palmer, Alaska. The airplane was being operated by the pilot as a visual flight rules (VFR) personal flight under Title 14, CFR Part 91. The solo commercial pilot was not injured. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and no flight plan was filed.

During a telephone conversation with the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigator-in-charge (IIC) on November 10, the pilot said he was taking off from a gravel bar when the left main landing gear tire struck a rock, and the left main landing gear collapsed. He said when the landing gear collapsed, the left wing struck the ground, resulting in structural damage to the wing. He said there were no mechanical problems with the airplane prior to the accident. The pilot did not submit an NTSB accident report form as requested.

History of Flight

Takeoff	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT) (Defining event)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Private	Age:	43, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Seat Occupied:	Unknown
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Without Waivers/Limitations	Last Medical Exam:	10/23/2009
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	100 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	PIPER	Registration:	N1042A
Model/Series:	PA-18-160	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	18-616
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1750 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	O-320
Registered Owner:	SKYLINE HOLDINGS INC	Rated Power:	160 hp
Operator:	Casey Long	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:	Clear	Temperature/Dew Point:	
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 1500 ft agl	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	/ 30 knots	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:		Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Palmer, AK	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	Unknown
Destination:	Palmer, AK	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	AST	Type of Airspace:	

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): Lawrence Lewis **Adopted Date:** 08/12/2010

Additional Participating Persons: Adam Gerber; FAA FSDO-03; Anchorage, AK

Publish Date: 08/12/2010

Investigation Docket: <http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=75041>

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.