



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Akhiok, AK	Accident Number:	ANC10CA082
Date & Time:	09/01/2010, 2100 AKD	Registration:	N1594A
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-20	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control in flight	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The private pilot was on a personal cross-country flight under Title 14, CFR Part 91. He said he had arrived at an abandoned gravel airstrip, and was making a low pass to assess wind and runway conditions for landing. He said while making a pass 12-15 feet above the ground, he decided the conditions were not right for landing due to a crosswind. He reported that as he applied power to terminate the low pass, a gust of wind from the right rolled the airplane to the left, and the left wing struck the ground. The pilot said despite full rudder, aileron, and power, he was unable to overcome the roll. The pilot said there were no mechanical problems with the airplane prior to the accident, and that the wings and fuselage sustained substantial damage during the accident. The pilot said he had not realized how the topography around the strip influenced the crosswind, and how fast the weather conditions were changing.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to maintain directional control while maneuvering at a low altitude.

Findings

Aircraft	Lateral/bank control - Capability exceeded (Cause)
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Crosswind - Contributed to outcome

Factual Information

History of Flight

Maneuvering-low-alt flying	Loss of control in flight (Defining event) Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	57, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
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:	03/20/2010
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	06/26/2008
Flight Time:	1206 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1200 hours (Total, this make and model), 1171 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 43 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 37 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	PIPER	Registration:	N1594A
Model/Series:	PA-20	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	20-833
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	03/10/2010, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1950 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3271 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	O-320 SERIES
Registered Owner:	FOWLER RAYMOND D	Rated Power:	180 hp
Operator:	FOWLER RAYMOND D	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:		Observation Time:	
Distance from Accident Site:		Condition of Light:	Dusk
Direction from Accident Site:		Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Temperature/Dew Point:	13°C
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	18 knots/ 25 knots, 270°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	29.7 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Kodiak, AK (PADQ)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Akhiok, AK	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1930 ADT	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Sitkinak Island	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	N/A	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Go Around; Straight-in

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:	12/20/2010
Additional Participating Persons:	Ben Weststein; FAA FSDO-03; Anchorage, AK		
Publish Date:	12/20/2010		
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=77185		

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