



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

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<b>Location:</b>	Haines, AK	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ANC16LA005
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	11/04/2015, 1345 AKS	<b>Registration:</b>	N4611U
<b>Aircraft:</b>	CESSNA 180	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Serious, 3 Minor
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

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## Analysis

The private pilot departed for the personal cross-country flight in the wheel-equipped, single-engine airplane over an area of inland fjords, coastal waterways, and steep mountainous terrain. The pilot estimated that the fuel quantity at departure was about 53 gallons, which should have been sufficient fuel for about 4 hours 40 minutes of flight; the flight was expected to be 1 hour long. The pilot stated that the fuel quantity gauges showed about 48 gallons remaining at departure. However, shortly after takeoff and while en route, both fuel gauges dropped to 0, but the pilot chose to continue to his destination. As the flight neared the destination airport, the engine lost total power, and the pilot's attempts to restore power using the emergency engine restart procedures failed. The pilot was subsequently forced to ditch the airplane in the ocean, and the four occupants swam to shore. The airplane later sank in deep ocean water and was not recovered.

Given the pilot's statement about the fuel on board at departure, it is likely that that the fuel system was compromised forward of the firewall. However, because the airplane could not be examined, the reason for the fuel exhaustion could not be determined.

## Flight Events

Enroute-cruise - Fuel exhaustion  
Enroute-cruise - Ditching

## Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

A loss of engine power due to fuel exhaustion for reasons that could not be determined based on available evidence and the pilot's decision to continue the flight after realizing the remaining fuel quantity was near 0.

## Findings

Aircraft-Fluids/misc hardware-Fluids-Fuel-Fluid level - C

Personnel issues-Action/decision-Info processing/decision-Decision making/judgment-Pilot - C

Environmental issues-Physical environment-Terrain-Water-Contributed to outcome

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	56
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine Land	<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Flight Time:</b>	(Estimated) 158 hours (Total, all aircraft), 73 hours (Total, this make and model), 101 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 46 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 15 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	CESSNA	<b>Registration:</b>	N4611U
<b>Model/Series:</b>	180	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Operator:</b>	On file	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	CONT MOTOR
<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-470 SERIES
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual Conditions	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	PAHN, 16 ft msl	<b>Weather Information Source:</b>	Weather Observation Facility
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>	15 knots / 20 knots, 290°
<b>Temperature:</b>	4° C	<b>Visibility</b>	10 Miles
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	JUNEAU, AK (JNU)	<b>Destination:</b>	HAINES, AK (HNS)

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	HAINES (HNS)	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Water
<b>Runway Used:</b>	N/A	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Water--choppy
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>			

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Minor	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 Serious, 2 Minor	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	58.901667, -135.152500		

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	David S Williams	Adopted Date:	07/26/2017
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.		
Investigation Docket:	<a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=92287">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=92287</a>		

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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.