



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Skwentna, AK	Accident Number:	GAA19CA564
Date & Time:	09/23/2019, 0900 AKD	Registration:	N5408Y
Aircraft:	Piper PA18	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that he conducted an off-airport takeoff from a surface covered with standing water. The water created excess drag on the main landing gear, the tail lifted, and the airplane then nosed over. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the right wing lift strut. The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation. The pilot added as a safety recommendation to add more weight in the tail, avoid taking off in water, and to abort the takeoff when first signs of trouble arise.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

The pilot's improper decision to depart from an off-airport surface covered with standing water, which resulted in a noseover.

Findings

Personnel issues	Decision making/judgment - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Wet surface - Effect on operation (Cause)
	Wet surface - Decision related to condition (Cause)

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Loss of control on ground (Defining event) Nose over/nose down
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	50, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Center
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Without Waivers/Limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	04/17/2019
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	04/26/2018
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 725 hours (Total, all aircraft), 214 hours (Total, this make and model), 725 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 60 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 20 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N5408Y
Model/Series:	PA18 150	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1964	Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	18-8171
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	09/01/2019, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-360
Registered Owner:	Northland Hangars Llc	Rated Power:	180 hp
Operator:	Northland Hangars Llc	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PANC, 120 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	58 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1653 UTC	Direction from Accident Site:	128°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 300 ft agl	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:	350°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	29.41 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	5° C / 2° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Skwentna, AK	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0900 AKD	Type of Airspace:	Class G

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	Latitude, Longitude:	61.769167, -151.584444 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Eric M Gutierrez	Report Date:	03/17/2020
Additional Participating Persons:	Kim McCartney; FAA; Anchorage, AK		
Publish Date:	03/17/2020		
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.ntsb.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=100326		

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. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).