



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	Talkeetna, Alaska	<b>Accident Number:</b>	GAA17CA539
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	September 16, 2017, 16:30 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N123LR
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Cessna A185	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Loss of control on ground	<b>Injuries:</b>	4 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

The pilot of the tailwheel-equipped airplane reported that, during landing, after a stabilized approach, the airplane touched down on the main landing gear (MLG) first for a wheel landing. The airplane bounced twice, and shortly before the tail settled on the ground, the "crosswind increased causing the aircraft to weathervane to the left." He added that he increased left aileron and right rudder to keep the airplane on the gravel airstrip; however, the "wind gust then all but stopped as the tailwheel settled to the ground causing the aircraft to turn rapidly to the right." He further added that he increased left rudder and brake, but the MLG started to depart the gravel airstrip and enter the softer shoulder. The "tail swung to the left of the aircraft direction of travel," and he was unable to correct the continued tightening right turn. Subsequently, the airplane rolled onto the left wing and left horizontal stabilizer and came to rest on the MLG.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the left wing and left horizontal stabilizer.

The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

The pilot reported the wind at the accident site, about the time of the accident, as variable, gusting to 10 knots. The pilot landed to the northeast.

## 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 landing in gusting wind conditions.

## Findings

<b>Aircraft</b>	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
<b>Personnel issues</b>	Aircraft control - Pilot
<b>Environmental issues</b>	Gusts - Effect on operation

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

Landing	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Landing	Dragged wing/rotor/float/other

### Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	37,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	4-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	BasicMed	Last FAA Medical Exam:	May 10, 2017
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	April 26, 2016
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 332 hours (Total, all aircraft), 29 hours (Total, this make and model), 279 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 31 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 11 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N123LR
Model/Series:	A185 E	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1969	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	185-1589
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	January 19, 2017 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3350 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3852 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	C126 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO-550D2B
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	300 Horsepower
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	PATK,350 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	25 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	00:53 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	84°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>		<b>Visibility</b>	10 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Broken / 10000 ft AGL	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	4 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/ None
<b>Wind Direction:</b>		<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/ N/A
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29.27 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	16°C / 4°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	CHUGIAK, AK (AK24)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	Talkeetna, AK	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>		<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	3 None	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	4 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	62.276111,-150.979995(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Swenson, Eric
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Kim McCartney; FAA; Anchorage, AK
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	December 15, 2017
<b>Note:</b>	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=96027">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=96027</a>

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