



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Brooks Range, Alaska	Accident Number:	GAA18CA488
Date & Time:	August 12, 2018, 07:00 Local	Registration:	N62882
Aircraft:	Cessna 185	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Windshear or thunderstorm	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot in the tailwheel-equipped airplane reported that he took off from an off-airport unimproved, gravel surface. He recalled that the airplane climbed to about 300 ft before it encountered a "severe downdraft." The airplane subsequently descended and impacted a creek bed, and the main landing gear separated from the airframe.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the foremost fuselage bulkhead and stringers.

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

The pilot reported that the wind at the accident site was from 230° at 25 knots, gusting to 30 knots and that he was landing to the southwest.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

The airplane's encounter with downdraft conditions during takeoff, which resulted in a subsequent loss of altitude and collision with terrain.

Findings

Environmental issues

Downdraft - Effect on operation

Aircraft

Climb rate - Attain/maintain not possible

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Windshear or thunderstorm (Defining event)
Takeoff	Miscellaneous/other
Takeoff	Part(s) separation from AC

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline transport	Age:	30,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 None	Last FAA Medical Exam:	June 8, 2018
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	August 2, 2018
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 9087 hours (Total, all aircraft), 550 hours (Total, this make and model), 7461 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 210 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 65 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Pilot-rated passenger Information

Certificate:	Airline transport	Age:	Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Unknown
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 None	Last FAA Medical Exam:	January 1, 2019
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N62882
Model/Series:	185 D	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1965	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	None	Serial Number:	185-0784
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	November 15, 2017 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3200 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3162.4 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	C91 installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	IO-470-F
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	260 Horsepower
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PAFM, 289 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	79 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	14:56 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	206°
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 11000 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	7 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	40°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.79 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	9°C / 5°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Wasilla, AK	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Brooks Range, AK	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	67.239204,-152.270538(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Hicks, Michael
Additional Participating Persons:	Bruce Cummings ; FAA; Anchorage, AK
Original Publish Date:	September 26, 2019
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=98069

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