



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	McGrath, Alaska	Accident Number:	GAA18CA504
Date & Time:	August 20, 2018, 08:30 Local	Registration:	N6727A
Aircraft:	Piper PA18	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation		

Analysis

The pilot of the tailwheel-equipped airplane reported that, during takeoff from a gravel, dirt airstrip, a "rogue crosswind gust of wind" pushed the airplane to the right. The airplane struck a "bump," became airborne, continued drifting right, and landed hard in a creek.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the fuselage.

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

The pilot reported that the prevailing wind was light and variable and not gusting. The airplane was departing to the south.

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 during takeoff in a crosswind.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Environmental issues	Crosswind - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Other weather encounter
Takeoff	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Takeoff	Miscellaneous/other
Takeoff	Runway excursion
Takeoff	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline transport; Commercial; Flight engineer; Flight instructor	Age:	72,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane single-engine; Instrument airplane	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	June 5, 2018
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	December 8, 2017
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 21618 hours (Total, all aircraft), 4509 hours (Total, this make and model), 16853 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 81 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N6727A
Model/Series:	PA18 150	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1981	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Restricted (Special)	Serial Number:	18-8109031
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	April 19, 2018 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1750 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2621 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	C91 installed, activated, aided in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	O-320-A2B
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	160 Horsepower
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:	Alaska Dall Sheep Guides, LLC.	Operator Designator Code:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PAFW, 1060 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	25 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	17:01 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	230°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 2000 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 10000 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	3 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:	360°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.03 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	12°C / 11°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	McGrath, AK	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Farewell, AK (0AA4)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	08:30 Local	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:	62.7975,-152.930831 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Benhoff, Kathryn
Additional Participating Persons:	Bruce Cummings; FAA; Anchorage, AK
Original Publish Date:	March 18, 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=98139

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