



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Big Lake, Alaska	Accident Number:	GAA18CA351
Date & Time:	June 15, 2018, 11:00 Local	Registration:	N9964X
Aircraft:	Cessna 185	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot of the tailwheel-equipped airplane reported that, during landing on a gravel airstrip, when the right main wheel touched down, the airplane veered right. He applied full left rudder to no avail. The right wheel exited the runway into soft, sandy soil, and the airplane nosed over.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the wings and empennage.

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

The pilot added that, after the accident, it was pointed out that the airplane had a flat tire and that there was a tire mark on the gravel runway from where the airplane touched down to where the airplane nosed over.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

The pilot's inability to maintain directional control during the landing roll due to a flat tire.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Attain/maintain not possible
Aircraft	Wheel/ski/float - Failure
Environmental issues	Soft surface - Contributed to outcome

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Landing	Attempted remediation/recovery
Landing	Runway excursion
Landing	Nose over/nose down

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	67,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Waiver time limited special	Last FAA Medical Exam:	June 28, 2017
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	May 17, 2017
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 366.2 hours (Total, all aircraft), 362.3 hours (Total, this make and model), 374.5 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N9964X
Model/Series:	185 UNDESIGNAT	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1961	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Utility	Serial Number:	185-0164
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	May 19, 2018 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2100.7 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
ELT:	C126 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:	PAWS,354 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	8 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	18:56 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	74°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	29.96 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	16°C / 9°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Willow, AK (UUO)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Big Lake, AK (BGQ)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	BIG LAKE BGQ	Runway Surface Type:	Gravel
Airport Elevation:	157 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	25	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2450 ft / 70 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop;Traffic pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	61.535556,-149.813888(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Swenson, Eric
Additional Participating Persons:	Marcus Roulet; 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=97488

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