



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Skweetna, Alaska	Accident Number:	ANC15CA055
Date & Time:	July 23, 2015, 16:00 Local	Registration:	N3085G
Aircraft:	Champion 7GCBC	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Nose over/nose down	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that he was landing a tailwheel-equipped airplane on a remote unimproved airstrip. Before the attempted landing, he made a low pass and determined that the dirt airstrip was clear of debris, and had what appeared to be grass on either side of the landing surface. During the final approach the airplane drifted about 10 to 15 feet to the left of the pilots intended touchdown point, and was aligned with the side of the airstrip. Having determined that the vegetation along the sides of the runway was grass the pilot elected not to execute a go-around and proceeded with the landing. The pilot realized, as the airplane touched down and immediately nosed over that the vegetation alongside the airstrip was not grass but alder brush. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the wings, vertical stabilizer and left lift strut. The pilot stated that there were no preaccident mechanical anomalies with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

In the recommendation section of the NTSB Accident/Incident Reporting Form 6120.1, the pilot stated that the accident may have been prevented if he would have aborted the landing.

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 land on an unsuitable landing surface which resulted in a nose over.

Findings

Personnel issues

Decision making/judgment - Pilot

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-flare/touchdown	Nose over/nose down (Defining event)
Landing-flare/touchdown	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	32
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	4-point
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:	March 22, 2012
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	147 hours (Total, all aircraft), 77 hours (Total, this make and model), 147 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 15 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Champion	Registration:	N3085G
Model/Series:	7GCBC	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1968	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Aerobatic; Normal	Serial Number:	91
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	May 1, 2014 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1599 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	C91 installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	O-320
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	150 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PASW,148 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:	02:50 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Visibility	30 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 3800 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	8 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	310°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.56 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	25°C / 9°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Skweetna, AK	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	15:00 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:	61.930507,-151.730911(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Banning, David
Additional Participating Persons:	Steven Wolletz; Federal Aviation Administration; Anchorage, AK
Original Publish Date:	September 30, 2015
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=91622

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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](#).