



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Fairbanks, Alaska	Accident Number:	ANC23LA039
Date & Time:	May 29, 2023, 08:30 Local	Registration:	N4488Z
Aircraft:	Piper PA-18-150	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Other work use		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, during approach in a float-equipped airplane, she encountered a strong gust of wind and the airspeed decreased, so she increased engine power. Before touchdown, she felt the airspeed was too fast, she selected full flaps and reduced engine power. The airplane veered left, and the pilot attempted to correct with opposite rudder and increased engine power; however, the airplane water looped to the left and impacted a riverbank, which resulted in substantial damage to the right wing. The pilot landed the airplane with a right quartering tailwind. The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

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 landing with a quartering tailwind, which resulted in a water loop and impact with terrain.

Findings

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

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-aborted after touchdown	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Other	Attempted remediation/recovery

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Flight instructor	Age:	28,Female
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:	
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane multi-engine; Airplane single-engine; Instrument airplane	Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	April 19, 2023
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	November 4, 2022
Flight Time:	1960.9 hours (Total, all aircraft), 34.5 hours (Total, this make and model), 1441.1 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 4.4 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4.4 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 0.7 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Passenger Information

Certificate:	Age:
Airplane Rating(s):	Seat Occupied: Rear
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Restraint Used: 4-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Second Pilot Present:
Instructor Rating(s):	Toxicology Performed:
Medical Certification:	Last FAA Medical Exam:
Occupational Pilot:	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:
Flight Time:	

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N4488Z
Model/Series:	PA-18-150	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1969	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	18-8843
Landing Gear Type:	Float	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	May 19, 2023 100 hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	68.5 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	5351.1 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	C126 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-320 B2B
Registered Owner:	ALASKA TAILWHEEL LLC	Rated Power:	150 Horsepower
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand air taxi (135)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PAFA, 430 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	1 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	08:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	136°
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Visibility	4 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 1200 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	10 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	Unknown / Terrain-Induced
Wind Direction:	230°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	Unknown / Light
Altimeter Setting:	29.49 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	9°C / 7°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	Moderate - None - Mist		
Departure Point:	Fairbanks, AK (FAI)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Fairbanks, AK	Type of Clearance:	Special VFR
Departure Time:	08:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class D

Airport Information

Airport:	Chena River Seaplane Base 2Z5	Runway Surface Type:	Water
Airport Elevation:	440 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Water-choppy
Runway Used:	090	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3000 ft / 300 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:		Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	64.8128,-147.9207(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Ward, Mark
Additional Participating Persons:	Tim Kirkendall; FAA; Fairbanks, AK
Original Publish Date:	October 20, 2023
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class 4
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=192272

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