



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Prospect Creek, Alaska	Accident Number:	ANC23LA048
Date & Time:	July 1, 2023, 11:30 Local	Registration:	N40661
Aircraft:	Maule M-4-210C	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Aerodynamic stall/spin	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot performed a low pass over a highway. During climbout, the pilot maintained an excessive angle of attack and the airplane veered left and impacted trees. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the left elevator. The pilot reported there were no preaccident mechanical malfunctions or failures 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 exceedance of the airplane's critical angle of attack on climbout, which resulted in a loss of control and impact with trees.

Findings

Personnel issues	Decision making/judgment - Pilot
Aircraft	Airspeed - Attain/maintain not possible
Aircraft	Angle of attack - Capability exceeded
Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot

Factual Information

History of Flight

Maneuvering-low-alt flying	Aerodynamic stall/spin (Defining event)
Maneuvering-low-alt flying	Loss of control in flight
Maneuvering-low-alt flying	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	43,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Unknown
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	July 30, 2019
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	April 6, 2023
Flight Time:	247 hours (Total, all aircraft), 134 hours (Total, this make and model), 197 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 38 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 22 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Passenger Information

Certificate:		Age:	
Airplane Rating(s):		Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Restraint Used:	Unknown
Instrument Rating(s):		Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:		Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Maule	Registration:	N40661
Model/Series:	M-4-210C	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1973	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	2173C
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	May 14, 2023 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2300 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	87.3 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1595 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	C126 installed, activated, aided in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	IO-360
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	210 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:	ABT,645 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	27 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	10:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	322°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 2800 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:	250°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.03 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	17°C / 9°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Fairbanks, AK (83AK)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Bettles, AK (PABT)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	10:40 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:	66.56,-150.81

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Hill, Millicent
Additional Participating Persons:	Daniel Foster; FAA/FSDO; Fairbanks, AK
Original Publish Date:	December 7, 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=192637

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The NTSB does not assign fault or blame for an accident or incident; rather, as specified by NTSB regulation, “accident/incident investigations are fact-finding proceedings with no formal issues and no adverse parties ... and are not conducted for the purpose of determining the rights or liabilities of any person” (Title 49 *Code of Federal Regulations* section 831.4). Assignment of fault or legal liability is not relevant to the NTSB’s statutory mission to improve transportation safety by investigating accidents and incidents and issuing safety recommendations. In addition, statutory language prohibits the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report (Title 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b)). A factual report that may be admissible under 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b) is available [here](#).