

Brief of Accident (Continued)

ANC12FA009
File No. 31013

11/29/2011

Chuathbaluk, AK

Aircraft Reg No. N1673U

Time (Local): 19:25 AST

Given the witness account of worsening weather conditions at the airport just before the accident and the lack of mechanical anomalies with the airplane, it is likely that the accident pilot encountered heavy snow and instrument meteorological conditions while approaching the airport. It is also likely that the pilot became spatially disoriented during the unexpected weather encounter and subsequently collided with terrain.

Updated at Apr 10 2013 10:06AM

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OCCURRENCES

Enroute - VFR encounter with IMC
Enroute - Loss of visual reference
Enroute - Controlled flight into terr/obj (CFIT)

FINDINGS

Personnel issues-Task performance-Use of equip/info-Aircraft control-Pilot - C
Environmental issues-Conditions/weather/phenomena-Ceiling/visibility/precip-Below VFR minima-Contributed to outcome
Personnel issues-Psychological-Perception/orientation/illusio-Situational awareness-Pilot - C

Findings Legend: (C) = Cause, (F) = Factor

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:
The pilot's loss of situational awareness after an inadvertent encounter with instrument meteorological conditions, which resulted in an in-flight collision with tree-covered terrain.