



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

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<b>Location:</b>	Hope, Alaska	<b>Accident Number:</b>	GAA17CA388
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	July 3, 2017, 10:32 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N9620M
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Cessna 207	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Loss of visual reference	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

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## Analysis

According to the pilot, he was flying the second airplane in a flight of two about 1 mile behind the lead airplane. The lead airplane pilot reported to him, via the airplane's radio, that he had encountered decreasing visibility and that he was making a 180° left turn to exit the area. The pilot recalled that, after losing sight of the lead airplane, he made a shallow climbing right turn and noticed that the terrain was rising. He recalled that he entered the clouds for a few seconds and "at that moment I ran into the trees which I never saw coming."

The airplane sustained substantial damage to both wings.

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

The pilot reported that the temperature was 60°F with 8 miles visibility and 1,500-ft ceilings.

The nearest METAR was about 1 mile away and reported that the temperature was 54°F, dew point was 52°F, visibility was 8 statute miles with light rain, and ceiling was broken at 500 ft and overcast at 1,500 ft.

## Probable Cause and Findings

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

The pilot's inadvertent flight into instrument meteorological conditions and subsequent controlled flight into terrain.

## Findings

Personnel issues	Identification/recognition - Pilot
Environmental issues	Low visibility - Effect on personnel
Environmental issues	Clouds - Effect on personnel
Environmental issues	Tree(s) - Effect on operation

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

Maneuvering-low-alt flying	Loss of visual reference (Defining event)
Maneuvering-low-alt flying	Low altitude operation/event
Maneuvering-low-alt flying	VFR encounter with IMC
Enroute	Controlled flight into terr/obj (CFIT)

### Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	64, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	March 1, 2016
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	February 16, 2016
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 5365 hours (Total, all aircraft), 3 hours (Total, this make and model), 5247 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 35 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 11 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N9620M
Model/Series:	207 A	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1981	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	20700711
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	7
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3803 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	23833.1 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
ELT:	C91 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO-520-F
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	300 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand air taxi (135)

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Instrument (IMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PANC,308 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	1 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:		Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Visibility	
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 500 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	7 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:	280°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	12° C / 11° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	SELDOVIA, AK (Paso)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Anchorage, AK (Z41 )	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	09:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

## 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:	60.456111,-150.029449(est)

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Hicks, Michael
Additional Participating Persons:	Jeff Burch; FAA; Juneau, AK
Original Publish Date:	December 15, 2017
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	<a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=95508">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=95508</a>

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