

Interview: Michael E. Hanson, Pilot, Renfro's Alaskan Adventures.
Date: June 19, 2016
Location: Alaska Native Medical Center, Anchorage, Alaska
Present: Shaun Williams – NTSB
Michael Hodges – NTSB
Wade Renfro – Renfro's Alaskan Adventures
Personal Representation was Waived

Mr. Hanson was the pilot of the accident flight involving N91170 from Quinhagak, Alaska to Goodnews, Alaska on June 17, 2016. He holds a Commercial Pilot Certificate with single-engine land, multi-engine land and instrument ratings.

During an interview conducted on June 19, Mr. Hanson stated the following:

On June 17, 2016, he was flying a Cessna 207 from Quinhagak, Alaska (AQH) to Goodnews, Alaska (GNU). He estimated the cloud ceilings to be about 800 ft mean sea level (MSL) and his cruise altitude about 700 ft MSL.

He stated that after departing AQH, he was going to try to wind his way through the backside of the mountain pass. He tried to cut across the mountains through a draw he thought went through. While maneuvering through the canyon, he came to an area that was too narrow and steep to safely turn around. In an effort to reduce his turning radius, he initiated a climb into the clouds and attempted to turn the airplane 180 degrees and fly back out the way he entered. During the 180 degree turn and while still in the clouds, the airplane impacted the terrain.

When asked about weather conditions, Mr. Hanson stated that the wind was from the west with an updraft on the hillside. There was no turbulence on the flight to GNH.

He stated that he utilized a three point harness on the accident flight and that he had been to GNH a total of about 3 times prior to the accident flight. He also said there were no mechanical malfunctions or anomalies with the airplane and that it was operating normally.

END OF INTERVIEW