



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Noreen Price
Aviation Accident Investigator
Alaska Regional Office

Date: January 30, 2017 @ 1000
Person Contacted: Gerda Kosbruk
NTSB Accident Number: ANC17TA015, N4261T, PA-32-260

Narrative:

Ms. Kosbruk was the sole passenger on the Van Air accident flight that occurred on January 16, 2017 near Pilot Point, Alaska. This is a summary of her statements provided during a phone interview conducted on January 30, 2017.

- Ms. Kosbruk has known Mr. Vandeventer for about seven years. She has chartered him before for transport from her home in Port Heiden. She estimated about ten flights.
- Mr. Vandeventer was a proficient pilot and she trusted his decision making.
- On the way down the coast from Dillingham to Port Heiden, the weather started to decline, and the airplane windshield started to pick up trace icing. The pilot decided to land at Pilot Point Airport to check the weather. She was not concerned. He asked her if she knew anyone at Pilot Point to stay with and she said no.
- After landing, the pilot used her mobile phone to call the Grant agent at Port Heiden. After getting the weather observation from the agent, the pilot said "Okay, let's go. If it's bad, we'll turn around."
- At about 1510 the airplane took off again. Once the airplane crossed the river, the weather started to close in. The airplane turned around and then the visibility went down. They were in clouds or fog. The pilot was saying that the engine was having a hard time. We were losing altitude. She did not notice ice on the wings, but the windshield was difficult to see through. She thought the engine may have quit. Then the pilot said, "we're going down" and made a radio call. "The engine didn't sound right; like it was having a hard time, not wanting to run. It felt as if the airplane was falling out of the sky."
- During the forced landing, she remembered hitting ice and watching the pilot being thrown all over the place during the bumpy landing in which the landing gear was ripped off.

- After landing, she remembered hearing the pilot moaning. Her arm was badly broken and bleeding.
- She made four phone calls before her mobile phone died due to impact damage. One was to the Port Heiden airport agent, one to her friend Hattie, one to the pilot's girlfriend and one to her husband in Port Heiden.
- The pilot egressed from the airplane, but he said that his back was broken, and he couldn't move much. She had difficulty getting out of the back seat. Once outside, they laid down on a wing cover and tried to stay warm.
- She checked that the ELT was in the "on" position.
- The pilot took out the handheld VHF and made a call on channel 18.
- Later in the evening, they heard a radio transmission of people talking about them. They said the ELT was not transmitting, so she went back and checked it again. It was very difficult to access.
- The pilot had her reach back into the window of the airplane to turn on the master switch and radio. She talked on the radio, but no one answered. The tail light strobe came on.
- She was very concerned about the pilot because he was shivering and in pain. They sat outside by the door to stay out of the wind. The pilot did not have his gloves on or anything around head and neck.
- The Coast Guard came and rescued them after about three hours.

The end