



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Noreen Price
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Alaska Regional Office

Date: May 16, 2018
Persons Contacted: Christopher Gates "JR", pilot
NTSB Accident Number: ANC18FA036 N7061W PA-28

Narrative: Mr. Gates is a pilot who flew through Portage Pass about the time of the accident. He was interviewed by telephone. This is a summary of his statements.

Mr. Gates was flying from Anchorage to Valdez the morning of the accident. He was passing through Portage Pass between 0930 and 1000. He reported his position on CTAF frequency 122.9. He heard a pilot say on the frequency, "sounds like Portage Pass is finally open." The pilot sounded calm. Mr. Gates stated that the weather was about 1000 ft solid cloud layer (ceiling), winds 20 to 30 knots east but smooth.

Mr. Gates described the terrain going through the pass. The highest point through the pass is about 300 to 400 ft and ½ mile wide and flat. About 1,000 ft ceiling is needed to go through and keep 500 ft of ground clearance. He was just able to fly through on the day of the accident.