

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Vehicle Recorder Division
Washington, D.C. 20594

September 3, 2019

Portable Electronic Device (PED)

Specialist's Factual Report By Sean Payne

1. EVENT SUMMARY

Location: Willow, Alaska
Date: July 18, 2018
Aircraft: De Havilland DHC-2
Registration: N9878R
Operator: Alaska Skyways, Inc.
NTSB Number: ANC18FA055

On July 18, 2018, about 1900 Alaska daylight time, a float-equipped De Havilland DHC-2 (Beaver) airplane, N9878R, impacted tree-covered terrain following a loss of control during the initial climb from the Willow Seaplane Base, Willow, Alaska. Of the three people on board, the airline transport pilot died at the scene, and the two passengers received serious injuries. The airplane was destroyed by a postcrash fire. The airplane was registered to Laughlin Acquisitions, LLC, and operated by Alaska Skyways, Inc., dba Regal Air, as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 135 visual flight rules on-demand passenger flight. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed and company flight following procedures were in effect. The accident flight originated from the Willow Seaplane Base about 1900 and was destined for a remote, unnamed lake about 61 miles northwest of Willow.

2. GROUP

A group was not convened.

3. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Vehicle Recorder Division received the following devices:

Device Manufacturer/Model:	Apple iPhone
Serial Number:	Unknown

3.1. Device Description

A Portable Electronic Device (PED) is any piece of lightweight, electrically-powered equipment. These devices are typically consumer electronic devices capable of communications, data processing and/or utility. Examples range from handheld, lightweight electronic devices such as tablets, e-readers, and smartphones to small devices such as MP3 players and electronic toys.

3.2. Device Condition

Upon arrival at the Vehicle Recorder Laboratory, an examination revealed the unit had sustained significant heat damage. The extent of the damage is shown in figure 1.

The device was opened (screen removed) and the internal components of the board were examined. The main board was destroyed by fire. For this device, there is no method to recover data from non-volatile memory¹ (NVM) components when removed from the main board. Furthermore, the extent of the heat damage to the NVM components would have precluded any possibility of data recover from an individual chip.



Figure 1. Photo of damaged unit as received by the NTSB lab.

¹ Non-volatile memory is semiconductor memory that does not require external power for data retention.



Figure 2. The device during internal examination. The region occupied by the main board is indicated by yellow arrows.

3.3. Data Description

This device is capable of storing data in the non-volatile memory (NVM). The extent of the damage precluded normal recovery procedures and additional attempts were unsuccessful in yielding usable data. Therefore, no data pertinent to the event were recovered.