

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Vehicle Recorder Division

Washington, D.C. 20594

April 30, 2019

Global Positioning System Device

Specialist's Factual Report

By Charles Cates

1. EVENT SUMMARY

Location: Healy, Alaska
Date: September 22, 2018
Aircraft: Piper PA-12
Registration: N7511H
Operator: Private
NTSB Number: ANC18FA071

On September 22, 2018, the wreckage of a Piper PA-12 airplane, N7511H, was located in an area of mountainous terrain about 35 miles east of Healy, Alaska. The accident occurred at an unknown time between September 15 and September 22. The private pilot and the passenger sustained fatal injuries, and the airplane sustained substantial damage. The airplane was registered to the pilot, who operated the airplane under the provisions of Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 as a visual flight rules personal flight when the accident occurred. With no definitive accident date at this time, exact meteorological conditions are unknown, and no flight plan had been filed.

2. GROUP

A group was not convened.

3. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Vehicle Recorder Division received the following global positioning system (GPS) device:

Device Manufacturer/Model:	Unknown Garmin Aera
Serial Number:	N/A

3.1. Garmin Aera Device Description

The Garmin Aera is a touchscreen equipped portable GPS device with a moving map display. The device contains a database of nav aids, terrain, and obstructions, as well as enroute airways.

3.2. Device Condition

Upon arrival at the Vehicle Recorder Laboratory, an examination revealed the unit has sustained extreme thermal damage. See figure 1 for the as received condition of the device.



Figure 1. Burned components received from Garmin Aera device.

3.3. Data Description

This device is capable of storing data in non-volatile memory. The circuit board received was delaminated due to thermal damage and the majority of its components were burned off. The extent of the damage precluded any recovery procedures; therefore, no data pertinent to the event were recovered.