



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Noreen Price
Aviation Accident Investigator
Alaska Regional Office

Date: October 2, 2019
Persons Contacted: Matthew Nevin, passenger
NTSB Accident Number: ANC19LA054, N7071B PA-18 seaplane

Narrative: Mr. Nevin was the rear seat passenger of a PA-18 seaplane that had an accident on September 22, 2019, about 1630 near Beluga, Alaska. This is a summary of his statements.

- Mr. Nevin stated that he and the pilot were on a moose hunt trip and this was the first time he was in his friend's airplane. Mr. Nevin is not a pilot, but he grew up around airplanes and is very comfortable in them. They flew in the airplane the day before and there were no mechanical issues.
- Mr. Nevin said that on the day of the accident, they shot a moose on a small lake near their base camp lake. After preparing the meat, they walked the length of the lake to determine if it was long enough to operate on. He recalled that they figured the lake was 750 to 800 feet long.
- They then hiked about ¼ mile to base camp and took off in the airplane. The pilot flew overhead a couple of times and then landed at the smaller lake where the moose meat was. He taxied back and performed a takeoff without the moose meat, and there was plenty of room to takeoff and clear obstacles. Mr. Nevin noted that there was a headwind present during the practice takeoff. The pilot again landed the airplane on the small lake and then shut it down to load up.
- They loaded a front quarter of the moose in the belly pod, and placed tenderloins, backstrap and some neck meat in the floats. He did not recall discussing the takeoff weight of the airplane.
- After the takeoff, at about 20 feet of altitude, the airplane leveled off and was not climbing. Mr. Nevin stated that the pilot "made the right call to pull back and stall the airplane, because we were going to hit the trees in front of us. Some pilots would have tried to continue the climb out, and that would not have ended well." He stated that the airplane then went quite before impact, perhaps because the pilot secured the engine, or the airplane stalled.
- Mr. Nevin stated that he did not hear any unusual sounds from the airplane during the takeoff or the climb out attempt.

- After the accident, they each egressed the airplane and checked for injuries. Mr. Nevin banged his elbow and had no other injuries. He noted that there was no wind at the accident site, unlike the earlier takeoff run.
- They hiked back to their main camp and in the morning, they hiked all the meat out of the small lake while they waited for rescue.
- When asked if the pilot stated what caused the accident, he said no. They did not know what caused it. The airplane should have been able to takeoff. The pilot is very good, and he trusts his abilities and would fly with him again. They did everything right in determining if the airplane could operate at that lake. He did not know what caused the accident.