



## RECORD OF CONVERSATION

**Clinton O. Johnson**  
**Chief, Alaska Region**  
**Alaska Regional Office**

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**Date: May 17, 2021**  
**Person Contacted: Charles (Chuck) McMahan, pilot**  
**NTSB Accident Number: ANC21LA040, N5489H**

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### **Narrative:**

Mr. McMahan notified the NTSB ROC of an accident that he had on May 15, involving his Piper PA-18, N5489H. The NTSB ROC then emailed and text me.

I called Mr. McMahan the following day and he explained what happened. He reported that he took off from his private airstrip in Gakona, with plans to do a 2-hour personal flightseeing trip, then return to his private airstrip.

Mr. McMahan said that during the flight the engine mixture control became very difficult to move, so he elected to land at a remote, off-airport site to investigate. After landing, he found that the mixture control cable had failed, so he elected to affix the mixture control arm to a full open position in order for him to return to his airstrip. After departing from the remote site, and while en route home, the engine lost power, and he made an emergency landing in an area of tree covered terrain.

After the accident, Mr. McMahan said that he discovered that the mixture control arm had become detached from his previous temporary repair, and it was found in the closed position. He commented that it was a bad decision to make the temporary repair as he did and then try to fly the airplane home.

*End*