 National Transportation Safety Board PRELIMINARY REPORT AVIATION		NTSB ID: ANC15MA041		Most Critical Injury: Fatal		
		Occurrence Date: 06/25/2015		Investigated By: NTSB		
		Occurrence Type: Accident				
Location/Time						
Nearest City/Place		State	Zip Code	Local Time	Time Zone	
Ketchikan		AK	99901	1215	AKD	
Aircraft Information						
Registration Number		Aircraft Manufacturer		Model/Series Number		
N270PA		DEHAVILLAND		DHC 3		
Type of Aircraft: Airplane			Amateur Built Aircraft? No			
Injury Summary:		Fatal	9	Serious	Minor	None
Revenue Sightseeing Flight: Yes			Air Medical Transport Flight: No			
Narrative						
<p>Brief narrative statement of facts, conditions and circumstances pertinent to the accident/incident:</p> <p>*** Note: NTSB investigators traveled in support of this investigation and used data obtained from various sources to prepare this aircraft accident report. ***</p> <p>On June 25, 2015, about 1215 Alaska daylight time, a single-engine, turbine-powered, float-equipped de Havilland DHC-3 (Otter) airplane, N270PA, sustained substantial damage when it impacted mountainous tree-covered terrain, about 24 miles northeast of Ketchikan, Alaska. The airplane was being operated under the provisions of 14 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 135, as an on-demand visual flight rules (VFR) sightseeing flight when the accident occurred. The airplane was owned by Pantechnicon Aviation, of Minden, Nevada, and operated by Promech Air, Inc., of Ketchikan. The commercial pilot and eight passengers were fatally injured. Marginal visual meteorological conditions were reported in the area at the time of the accident. The flight departed a floating dock located in Rudyerd Bay about 44 miles northeast of Ketchikan about 1200 for a tour through Misty Fjords National Monument Wilderness. A company VFR flight plan was in effect. At the time of the accident, the flight was returning to the operator's base at the Ketchikan Harbor Seaplane Base, Ketchikan.</p> <p>The flight was a sightseeing flight for passengers of a cruise ship that was docked in Ketchikan. The tour, named Cruise/Fly, consisted of two groups of passengers. One group departed Ketchikan onboard a marine vessel and the other group departed via airplane, with a predetermined rendezvous at the floating dock in Rudyerd Bay. Once at the floating dock, the two groups would switch transportation modes for the return trip to Ketchikan.</p> <p>The operator reported that the accident airplane departed Rudyerd Bay as the third of four float-equipped airplanes on air tour flights over the Misty Fjords National Monument Wilderness. The airplanes departed about 5 minutes apart, and the standard route of flight was southwest, over an area of remote inland fjords, coastal waterways, and mountainous tree-covered terrain.</p> <p>When the airplane failed to return to Ketchikan, the operator initiated a search for the missing airplane and heard an emergency locator transmitter (ELT) signal along the accident pilot's anticipated route of flight. A helicopter from Temsco Helicopters, Inc., of Ketchikan, was dispatched to the suspected accident site to search for the missing airplane. However, the helicopter pilot said that he was unable to search the upper levels of the mountainous areas due to low ceilings and poor visibility. The helicopter pilot said that, after waiting for the weather conditions to improve, he was able to search the upper elevations of the search area and located the wreckage about 1429. The Ketchikan Volunteer Rescue Squad (KVRs) team members reached the accident site and confirmed that the airplane's occupants had sustained fatal injuries.</p>						
PRELIMINARY INFORMATION - SUBJECT TO CHANGE						

National Transportation Safety Board

PRELIMINARY REPORT**AVIATION**

NTSB ID: ANC15MA041

Occurrence Date: 06/25/2015

Occurrence Type: Accident

Narrative (Continued)

The NTSB investigator-in-charge along with another NTSB investigator, with help from KQRS, reached the accident site on the morning of June 27. The airplane impacted trees and a near vertical rock face in a nose high, wings level attitude at an elevation of about 1,600 feet mean sea level and came to rest upright on top of its separated floats, in an area of heavily forested, steep terrain.


The accident airplane was equipped with an avionics package known as automatic dependent surveillance-broadcast (ADS-B), which is also known as "Capstone." ADS-B technology provides pilots with situational awareness by displaying the airplane's position over terrain, while using GPS technology, coupled with an instrument panel mounted, moving map display. The ADS-B equipment installed in the accident airplane included two Chelton multifunction display (MFD) units. One MFD provides the pilot with a moving map with terrain awareness information, and the other provides primary flight display information. The two MFD units were removed from the wreckage and shipped, to the NTSB vehicle recorder laboratory, Washington, D.C.


The accident airplane was equipped with a Pratt & Whitney PT6A-135A engine that produces 750 shaft horsepower.

A comprehensive NTSB postaccident examination of the engine and airframe is pending, after the airplane wreckage is recovered to Ketchikan.

The closest weather reporting facility is Ketchikan Airport (KTN), Ketchikan, AK, about 24 miles southwest of the accident site. At 1153, an aviation routine weather report (METAR) at KTN reported in part: wind 130 degrees at 15 knots, gust 23 knots; visibility 6 statute miles, rain and mist, runway 11 visual range 4,000 variable to greater than 6,000 feet; few clouds 800 feet, broken clouds 1,200 feet, overcast clouds 2,700 feet; 61 degrees F; dew point 57 degrees F; altimeter 29.91 in Hg.

Updated on Jul 6 2015 2:44PM

 <p>National Transportation Safety Board PRELIMINARY REPORT AVIATION</p>		NTSB ID: ANC15MA041	
		Occurrence Date: 06/25/2015	
		Occurrence Type: Accident	
Other Aircraft Involved			
Registration Number	Aircraft Manufacturer	Model/Series Number	
Accident Information			
Aircraft Damage: Substantial		Accident Occurred During: Enroute-cruise	
Crew	Name	Certificate No.	Injury
Pilot	On File	On File	Fatal
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
Operator Information			
Name Promech Air, Inc.		Operator Designator Code	Doing Business As
Street Address 1515 Tongass Avenue		City Ketchikan	State AK
			Zip Code 99901
-Type of Certificate(s) Held:			
Air Carrier Operating Certificate(s): On-demand Air Taxi			
Operating Certificate:		Operator Certificate:	
Regulation Flight Conducted Under: Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter			
Type of Flight Operations Conducted: Non-scheduled; Domestic; Passenger Only			
Flight Plan/Itinerary			
Type of Flight Plan Filed: Company VFR			
Last Departure Point		State	Airport Identifier
Same as Accident/Incident Location			
Destination		State	Airport Identifier
Same as Accident/Incident Location			
Weather Information			
Investigator's Source: Weather Observation Facility		Facility ID: KTN	Observation Time (Local): 1953
Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition: Few		800 Ft. AGL	
Lowest Ceiling: Broken	1200 Ft. AGL	Visibility: 6	SM
		Altimeter: 29.91	"Hg
PRELIMINARY INFORMATION - SUBJECT TO CHANGE			Page 2

 <p>National Transportation Safety Board PRELIMINARY REPORT AVIATION</p>	NTSB ID: ANC15MA041	
	Occurrence Date: 06/25/2015	
	Occurrence Type: Accident	

Weather Information (Continued from page 2)

Temperature: 16 °C	Dew Point: 14 °C	Wind Direction: 130	
Wind Speed: 15 Kts.	Gusts: 23 Kts.	Weather Conditions at Accident Site:	

Administration Data

Notification From FAA ROC & Alaska State Trooper	Date
FAA District Office/Coordinator Federal Aviation Administration Patrick Hempen	Investigator-In-Charge (IIC) David B. Banning