Aviation Investigation Preliminary Report

Location:	Kodiak, AK	**Accident Number:**	ANC27FA003
Date & Time:	October 30, 2026, 09:23 Local	**Registration:**	N9863Q
Aircraft:	Cessna A185F	**Injuries:**	1 Fatal, 2 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 135: Air taxi & commuter - Non-scheduled		

On October 30, 2026 about 0923 Alaska daylight time, a Cessna A185F airplane, N9863Q, was substantially damaged when it was involved in an accident near Kodiak, Alaska. The pilot and one passenger sustained minor injuries, and one passenger was fatally injured. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 135 air taxi flight.

This was the first of two flights transporting hunters and their gear to a remote cabin in Bluefox Bay, Alaska. The amphibious float-equipped airplane departed from the runway at the Kodiak Municipal Airport (KDK), Kodiak, Alaska, at 0858.

The pilot reported that after departure he did not retract the landing gear and that he used memory aids to accomplish the before takeoff, the after takeoff, and before landing checklists. He said that sometimes he verified the completion of all required tasks by looking at a printed checklist, but he did not remember using a checklist on this flight.

The pilot made a circling approach over the water to lose altitude and increased the airplane flaps to 10°. He made a normal approach to land on the water and the floats touched down in the water with the landing gear extended. The airplane violently nosed over and came to rest inverted, resulting in substantial damage to the left wing and engine mount.

The wreckage was retained for further examination.

This information is preliminary and subject to change.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	**Registration:**	N9863Q
Model/Series:	A185F	**Aircraft Category:**	Airplane
Amateur Built:			
Operator:	Vertigo Air Taxi	**Operating Certificate(s) Held:**	On-demand air taxi (135)
Operator Designator Code:	3VGA		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	VMC	**Condition of Light:**	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	ADQ,16 ft msl	**Observation Time:**	10:00 Local
Distance from Accident Site:	41 Nautical Miles	**Temperature/Dew Point:**	6°C /2°C
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	**Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:**	7 knots / None, 210°
Lowest Ceiling:	None	**Visibility:**	10 miles
Altimeter Setting:	29.25 inches Hg	**Type of Flight Plan Filed:**	
Departure Point:	Kodiak	**Destination:**	Kodiak, AK

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	**Aircraft Damage:**	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Fatal, 1 Minor	**Aircraft Fire:**	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	**Aircraft Explosion:**	None
Total Injuries:	1 Fatal, 2 Minor	**Latitude, Longitude:**	58.42797,-152.69833

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Ward, Mark
Additional Participating Persons:	George O'Connor; FAA; Juneau, AK
Investigation Class:	Class 3
Note:	

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