

NTSB Identification: **CEN09FA126**  
14 CFR Part 91: General Aviation  
Accident occurred Sunday, January 11, 2009 in Hayden, CO  
Aircraft: PILATUS AIRCRAFT LTD PC-12/45, registration: N604WP  
Injuries: 2 Fatal.

This is preliminary information, subject to change, and may contain errors. Any errors in this report will be corrected when the final report has been completed.

On January 11, 2009, about 0942 Mountain Standard Time, a Pilatus PC-12/45 single engine airplane, N604WP, was destroyed on impact with terrain following a loss of control while on initial takeoff climb near Hayden, Colorado. The private pilot and his passenger were fatally injured. Instrument meteorological conditions prevailed for the personal flight for which an instrument flight rules flight plan was filed. The 633-nautical mile cross-country flight, which was originating at the time of the accident, was destined for the Chino Airport (CNO), near Chino, California. The airplane was owned and operated by the Rooney Consulting and Aviation LLC of Bandon, Oregon.

According to the General Manager at Galaxy Aviation, the pilot contacted him around 0730 and asked that the airplane be pulled from its heated hangar and fueled. The airport manager suggested to the pilot that they wait to pull the airplane until after he arrived in order to prevent falling snow from accumulating on the airplane. The pilot agreed and called again around 0800 to let the manager know that he and his passenger had arrived.

Line crew personnel reported that as they arrived to pull and fuel the airplane, the pilot was removing baggage from inside the airplane and placing it in the hangar. Once the airplane was pulled outside, the pilot performed a walk around inspection before he and the passenger boarded the airplane. According to the fuel receipt, the airplane was fueled at 0917 with 100 gallons of Jet A aviation fuel. Once the airplane was fueled the airplane was pulled out to the taxiway, on request of the pilot, in an effort to prevent it from becoming stuck in the snow. The line crew also reported "heavy" snowfall from the time the airplane was pulled from the hangar until the airplane departed. In addition two of the line crewmembers reported seeing an accumulation of "wet snow" on the airplane's wings.

Airport fire department personnel, who monitor the Unicom frequency, reported that the airplane departed from runway 28 at 0939. A fireman, who observed the airplane takeoff, reported that the airplane appeared to level off momentarily about 500 feet above ground level (AGL) before entering a right turn. He then lost site of the airplane due to the visibility.

When the pilot failed to check in with the Denver Air Traffic Control Center a search was initiated. No distress calls were reported. Initial radar information revealed that the airplane continued in a right turn until it impacted the ground about one mile north of runway 28.

The onsite investigation revealed that the airplane impacted a snow-covered field while

inverted and while in a nose down attitude of approximately 70 degrees. A post-impact fire consumed most of the airframe.

The Yampa Valley Airport is a non-towered airport operated by Routt County. The field elevation is 6,602 feet. The airport features a single 10/28-asphalt runway that is 10,000-feet long, by 150-feet wide.

At 0935, the automated weather observing system at Hayden Airport (HDN), reported wind from 100 degrees at 4 knots, visibility of three quarters of a mile, overcast sky at 1,200 feet, temperature 19 degrees Fahrenheit, dew point 18 degrees Fahrenheit, with an altimeter setting of 30.38 inches of Mercury.