



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Erie, Michigan	Accident Number:	CEN20CA254
Date & Time:	June 27, 2020, 17:00 Local	Registration:	N59262
Aircraft:	Volmer VJ22	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Landing gear not configured	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported he had departed from a paved runway in his amphibious airplane. After takeoff, he was momentarily distracted by communications with air traffic control and did not ensure the landing gear was retracted. After a short local flight, he prepared to make a water landing on a lake. However, he was unable to locate the water landing checklist in the airplane and completed the checklist from memory. During the process, he inadvertently "skipped over" verifying the landing gear was retracted. When the airplane touched down on the water, he was unable to prevent it from nosing over. Photographs of the airplane taken during recovery from the lake showed substantial damage to the fuselage and wings. The pilot reported no mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that could have contributed to the accident.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The pilot's failure to ensure that the amphibious airplane's wheels were retracted before attempting a water landing, resulting in a nose over during touch down. Contributing to the accident was the lack of a checklist available to the pilot.

Findings

Aircraft	Main landing gear - Incorrect use/operation
Personnel issues	Use of equip/system - Pilot
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Personnel issues	Use of checklist - Pilot

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing	Landing gear not configured (Defining event)
Landing-flare/touchdown	Nose over/nose down

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	50, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	4-point
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	May 21, 2019
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	March 2, 2019
Flight Time:	789 hours (Total, all aircraft), 102 hours (Total, this make and model), 703 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 22 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 20 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Volmer	Registration:	N59262
Model/Series:	VJ22 No Series	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1975	Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental (Special)	Serial Number:	F-2
Landing Gear Type:	Amphibian; Hull	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	June 25, 2020 Condition	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	1 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	274 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	O-290-D2
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	135 Horsepower
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	TOL	Distance from Accident Site:	80 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	15:00 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	10°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	190°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.76 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	28°C / 20°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Toledo, OH (TOL)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Erie, MI (None)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	16:35 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	41.77639,-83.446945

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Sorensen, Timothy
Additional Participating Persons:	Jeffrey A Anderson; FAA Flight Standards; Belleville, MI
Original Publish Date:	May 6, 2021
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class 4
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=101513

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