



Aviation Investigation Preliminary Report

Location:	Leonardtown, MD	Accident Number:	ERA23LA349
Date & Time:	August 24, 2023, 17:30 Local	Registration:	N955LS
Aircraft:	Cessna A185F	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Instructional		

On August 24, 2023, about 1730 eastern daylight time, a Cessna A185F float-equipped airplane, N955LS, was substantially damaged when it was involved in an accident near Leonardtown, Maryland. The private pilot and designated pilot examiner (DPE) were not injured. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 instructional flight.

According to the private pilot, who was undergoing a checkride for a private pilot sea plane add-on rating, the flight departed uneventfully from the St. Mary's County Regional Airport (2W6), Leonardtown, Maryland. He navigated to the Saint Clements Bay about 8 miles west of 2W6 to conduct the first water landing of the checkride. He circled near the area of the planned landing and then entered a left downwind for landing. About 800 ft above ground level (agl), while in the left downwind, he reduced engine power to 20 inches manifold pressure and added "one notch" of flaps. Subsequently, he heard a subtle change in engine noise and attempted to increased power, however, engine power did not increase. With the airplane approaching about 600 ft agl, he announced to the DPE that the engine had lost power and the DPE needed to take the controls.

According to the DPE, while on the left downwind, he heard the private pilot state, "I lost power." The DPE subsequently took the flight controls and pushed the throttle, propeller, and mixture controls forward, however, the engine did not respond. He then switched fuel tanks and navigated towards a corn field ahead. During the forced landing, the airplane nosed over.

According to a Federal Aviation Administration inspector that examined the airplane at the accident site, the fuselage and wings sustained substantial damage. An estimated 30 gallons of blue 100-low lead fuel was drained from the airplane.

The wreckage was retained for further examination.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N955LS
Model/Series:	A185F NO SERIES	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Amateur Built:			
Operator:	Southern Maryland Sea Planes	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Designator Code:			

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	VMC	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	NHK,40 ft msl	Observation Time:	17:52 Local
Distance from Accident Site:	14 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	28°C /18°C
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	6 knots / , 150°
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 11000 ft AGL	Visibility:	10 miles
Altimeter Setting:	29.96 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Departure Point:	Leonardtown, MD (2W6)	Destination:	Leonardtown, MD (2W6)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	38.31877,-76.713432 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Gerhardt, Adam
Additional Participating Persons:	David G. Reese; FAA/FSDO; Washington , DC
Investigation Class:	Class 3
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.