



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	FOLSOM LAKE, California	Accident Number:	LAX96LA100
Date & Time:	December 27, 1995, 11:00 Local	Registration:	N5LY
Aircraft:	Lake LA-4-200	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

The student was practicing a confined area takeoff and initiated a turn to the right when the aircraft began skidding to the outside of the turn. The instructor applied right rudder, right aileron, and reduced the power to idle. As power was reduced, the aircraft suddenly came down off the step and settled into the water. The instructor saw the left wing tip descend into the water, and he responded by adding full power and leveling the wings. As power was added, the aircraft accelerated and lifted off. After becoming airborne, the instructor surveyed the damage and decided to return to airport. A landing was made without further incident. Substantial damage to the left wing was discovered during maintenance inspection.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the flight instructor's inadequate supervision of the dual student and improper remedial action. A factor relating to the accident was: failure of the student pilot to maintain directional control.

Findings

Occurrence #1: DRAGGED WING, ROTOR, POD, FLOAT OR TAIL/SKID
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - ROLL/RUN

Findings

1. TERRAIN CONDITION - WATER
2. (F) DIRECTIONAL CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - DUAL STUDENT

3. (C) SUPERVISION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND(CFI)
4. (C) REMEDIAL ACTION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND(CFI)
5. WING,WINGTIP - OVERLOAD

Factual Information

On December 27, 1995, about 1100 hours Pacific standard time, a Lake LA-4-200 amphibian, N5LY, dug a wing in the water on takeoff from Folsom Lake near Folsom, California. The aircraft sustained substantial damage; however, neither the flight instructor nor his student were injured. The aircraft was being operated as an instructional flight by a private owner when the accident occurred. The flight originated in Sacramento, California, about 1030. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed at the time and no flight plan had been filed.

The instructor reported that his student was in the process of practicing a confined area takeoff. After the aircraft came up onto the step, the student initiated a turn toward the right when the aircraft began skidding to the outside of the turn. To compensate for this condition, the instructor applied right rudder, right aileron, and reduced the engine power to idle. As the power was reduced, the aircraft came down off the step and settled into the water. When this occurred the instructor saw the left wing tip descend below the surface of the water and he responded by adding full power and leveling the wings. As the wings were leveled and power added the aircraft accelerated and lifted off.

After becoming airborne the instructor observed skin damage to both sponsons. Satisfied that the aircraft was controllable in the air, but uncertain if the aircraft could be landed safely in the water due to the possibility of reduced buoyancy if the damage to the sponsons allowed them to take on water, the instructor decided to return to Natomas Field. Upon arrival at Natomas, the aircraft landed without further incident.

A postaccident maintenance inspection revealed damage to both under wing sponsons, the nose gear door, internal bulkheads, and skin on the left wing.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Flight instructor	Age:	29, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane single-engine	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical—no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	April 1, 1995
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	2500 hours (Total, all aircraft), 45 hours (Total, this make and model), 2350 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 100 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 30 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 7 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Lake	Registration:	N5LY
Model/Series:	LA-4-200 LA-4-200	Aircraft Category:	Unknown
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	474
Landing Gear Type:	Amphibian	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	November 8, 1995 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2600 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	65 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO-360-A1B
Registered Owner:	WEST SEEGMILLER	Rated Power:	200 Horsepower
Operator:	VLADIMIR ZERAVICA	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	MCC ,466 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	17 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	10:55 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	240°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 10000 ft AGL	Visibility	7 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	3 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	180°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	14°C / 6°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	SACRAMENTO , CA (Q96)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	10:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	FOLSOM LAKE	Runway Surface Type:	Water
Airport Elevation:	466 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Water-calm
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	38.66996,-121.140632(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Crispin, Robert
Additional Participating Persons:	JOHN HANCOCK; SACRAMENTO , CA
Original Publish Date:	October 4, 1995
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=29368

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant events in other modes of transportation—railroad, transit, highway, marine, pipeline, and commercial space. We determine the probable causes of the accidents and events we investigate, and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future occurrences. In addition, we conduct transportation safety research studies and offer information and other assistance to family members and survivors for each accident or event we investigate. We also serve as the appellate authority for enforcement actions involving aviation and mariner certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and US Coast Guard, and we adjudicate appeals of civil penalty actions taken by the FAA.

The NTSB does not assign fault or blame for an accident or incident; rather, as specified by NTSB regulation, “accident/incident investigations are fact-finding proceedings with no formal issues and no adverse parties ... and are not conducted for the purpose of determining the rights or liabilities of any person” (Title 49 *Code of Federal Regulations* section 831.4). Assignment of fault or legal liability is not relevant to the NTSB’s statutory mission to improve transportation safety by investigating accidents and incidents and issuing safety recommendations. In addition, statutory language prohibits the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report (Title 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b)). A factual report that may be admissible under 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b) is available [here](#).