



Aviation Investigation Final Report

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| Location: | WILTON, Maine | Accident Number: | NYC91LA243 |
| Date & Time: | September 21, 1991, 12:30 Local | Registration: | N1012L |
| Aircraft: | LAKE LA-4 | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Defining Event: | | Injuries: | 2 None |
| Flight Conducted Under: | Part 91: General aviation - Personal | | |

Analysis

THE PILOT SAID WHEN HE LANDED ON ROUGH WATER THE AIRPLANE BOUNCED AND THE RIGHT WING TIP CONTACTED THE WATER. THE AIRPLANE NOSED OVER AND SANK.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT'S IMPROPER RECOVERY FROM A BOUNCED LANDING ON ROUGH WATER WHICH RESULTED IN THE RIGHT WING TIP CONTACTING THE WATER CAUSING THE AIRPLANE TO NOSE OVER AND SINK. FACTORS RELATED TO THE ACCIDENT WERE, THE PILOT'S LOW TIME AND EXPERIENCE IN THIS TYPE AIRCRAFT.

Findings

Occurrence #1: DRAGGED WING, ROTOR, POD, FLOAT OR TAIL/SKID
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

1. (C) RECOVERY FROM BOUNCED LANDING - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) LACK OF TOTAL EXPERIENCE IN TYPE OF AIRCRAFT - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) AIRCRAFT CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: NOSE OVER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

4. (C) TERRAIN CONDITION - WATER,ROUGH

Factual Information

Pilot Information

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| Certificate: | Private | Age: | 44, Male |
| Airplane Rating(s): | Single-engine land | Seat Occupied: | Unknown |
| Other Aircraft Rating(s): | None | Restraint Used: | |
| Instrument Rating(s): | None | Second Pilot Present: | No |
| Instructor Rating(s): | None | Toxicology Performed: | No |
| Medical Certification: | Class 3 Valid Medical-w/ waivers/lim | Last FAA Medical Exam: | July 16, 1990 |
| Occupational Pilot: | UNK | Last Flight Review or Equivalent: | |
| Flight Time: | 172 hours (Total, all aircraft), 47 hours (Total, this make and model) | | |

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

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|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Aircraft Make: | LAKE | Registration: | N1012L |
| Model/Series: | LA-4 LA-4 | Aircraft Category: | Airplane |
| Year of Manufacture: | | Amateur Built: | |
| Airworthiness Certificate: | Normal | Serial Number: | 225 |
| Landing Gear Type: | Amphibian | Seats: | 2 |
| Date/Type of Last Inspection: | August 9, 1991 Annual | Certified Max Gross Wt.: | 2400 lbs |
| Time Since Last Inspection: | 5 Hrs | Engines: | 1 Reciprocating |
| Airframe Total Time: | 1928 Hrs | Engine Manufacturer: | LYCOMING |
| ELT: | Installed, not activated | Engine Model/Series: | O-360-A10 |
| Registered Owner: | AL'S AIR SERVICE, INC. | Rated Power: | 180 Horsepower |
| Operator: | AL'S AIR SERVICE, INC. | Operating Certificate(s) Held: | None |
| Operator Does Business As: | | Operator Designator Code: | |

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

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|---|----------------------------------|---|----------|
| Conditions at Accident Site: | Visual (VMC) | Condition of Light: | Day |
| Observation Facility, Elevation: | | Distance from Accident Site: | |
| Observation Time: | | Direction from Accident Site: | |
| Lowest Cloud Condition: | Scattered / 5000 ft AGL | Visibility | 10 miles |
| Lowest Ceiling: | None | Visibility (RVR): | |
| Wind Speed/Gusts: | 10 knots / 15 knots | Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual: | / |
| Wind Direction: | 300° | Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual: | / |
| Altimeter Setting: | | Temperature/Dew Point: | 16°C |
| Precipitation and Obscuration: | No Obscuration; No Precipitation | | |
| Departure Point: | (3B5) | Type of Flight Plan Filed: | None |
| Destination: | (3B5) | Type of Clearance: | None |
| Departure Time: | 11:30 Local | Type of Airspace: | Class G |

Airport Information

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|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Airport: | | Runway Surface Type: | |
| Airport Elevation: | | Runway Surface Condition: | |
| Runway Used: | 0 | IFR Approach: | None |
| Runway Length/Width: | | VFR Approach/Landing: | Full stop |

Wreckage and Impact Information

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|----------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Crew Injuries: | 1 None | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Passenger Injuries: | 1 None | Aircraft Fire: | None |
| Ground Injuries: | N/A | Aircraft Explosion: | None |
| Total Injuries: | 2 None | Latitude, Longitude: | |

Administrative Information

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| Investigator In Charge (IIC): | Yurman, Alan |
| Additional Participating Persons: | ROBERT DZIAOZIO; PORTLAND , ME |
| Original Publish Date: | April 27, 1993 |
| Last Revision Date: | |
| Investigation Class: | Class |
| Note: | |
| Investigation Docket: | https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=37017 |

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](#).