



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location: Lakewood, Wisconsin Accident Number: CHI07LA238

Date & Time: July 28, 2007, 12:47 Local Registration: N914JS

Aircraft: Swanson Aventura II Aircraft Damage: Substantial

Defining Event: 1 Fatal, 1 Serious

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General aviation - Personal

Analysis

A witness said he saw the pilot make two attempts to take off from a lake. On the third attempt, the witness said the airplane pulled up sharply, leveled off momentarily, and then the left wing "dipped," and the airplane "dropped" and struck trees and then the ground. An examination of the airplane revealed no anomalies.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's excessive pull up, his not maintaining airspeed, and the inadvertent stall resulting in the loss of control. A factor contributing to the accident was the trees.

Findings

Occurrence #1: ABRUPT MANEUVER

Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. (F) OBJECT - TREE(S)

2. (C) PULL-UP - EXCESSIVE - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

3. (C) AIRSPEED - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

4. (C) STALL/SPIN - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings
5. TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND

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Factual Information

On July 28, 2007, about 1247 central daylight time, an experimental amateur-built amphibious Swanson Aventura II airplane, N914JS, sustained substantial damage on impact with trees and terrain near Lakewood, Wisconsin. The personal flight was operating under 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed at the time of the accident. No flight plan was on file. The pilot sustained fatal injuries and the passenger received serious injuries. The flight was originating from Lake John, near Lakewood, Wisconsin, at the time of the accident.

A witness reported to a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Inspector that he saw the airplane on the southwest side of the lake start a takeoff roll and abort its takeoff due to a boat. The airplane returned to its starting spot and started another takeoff roll. The airplane aborted this takeoff when it encountered the wake from the boat. The airplane maneuvered into a cove at the northeast end of the lake and started to take off from there. The available takeoff distance from that location was shorter. The witness indicated that the airplane pulled up sharply to clear the trees, leveled off briefly, the left wing "dipped," and the airplane "dropped." The airplane was found with its engine still running.

At 1154, the recorded weather at the Ford Airport, near Iron Mountain/Kingsford, Michigan, was: Wind 250 degrees at 6 knots; visibility 10 statute miles; sky condition clear; temperature 28 degrees C; dew point 9 degrees C; altimeter 30.05 inches of mercury.

FAA inspectors examined the wreckage on-scene. The examination revealed no pre-impact anomalies.

The FAA Civil Aerospace Medical Institute prepared a Final Forensic Toxicology Accident Report. The report stated:

0.579 (ug/mL, ug/g) MIDAZOLAM detected in Liver MIDAZOLAM NOT detected in Blood 0.064 (ug/mL, ug/g) MIDAZOLAM detected in Kidney 0.04 (ug/mL, ug/g) MIDAZOLAM detected in Spleen NAPROXEN detected in Blood LIDOCAINE detected in Blood EPHEDRINE detected in Blood.

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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	50,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Unknown
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	April 1, 2007
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	650 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Swanson	Registration:	N914JS
Model/Series:	Aventura II	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental (Special)	Serial Number:	AP2A0063
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1350 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Rotax
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	912ULS
Registered Owner:	Jeffrey R. Swanson	Rated Power:	100 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

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Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	IMT,1182 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	30 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	11:54 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	45°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	6 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	350°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.04 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	28°C / 9°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Lakewood, WI	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	12:47 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Fatal, 1 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	45.342224,-88.538055

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Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Malinowski, Edward
Additional Participating Persons:	Steve F Talbott; Federal Aviation Administration; Milwaukee, WI
Original Publish Date:	April 30, 2008
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	<u>Class</u>
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=66345

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.

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