



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Algonac, Michigan	Accident Number:	CHI08CA298
Date & Time:	August 23, 2008, 14:15 Local	Registration:	N1147L
Aircraft:	Lake LA-4	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Ground collision	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that after departure he proceeded to a nearby lake in order to practice water takeoffs and landings. After landing, the water conditions became too rough to safely takeoff. The pilot elected to water taxi to a bay area near an island for smoother conditions. He stated that as he crossed near the southern tip of the island, the airplane struck a submerged object. He estimated the airplane's speed at the time as approximately 6 miles per hour. He steered the airplane toward deeper water; however, after about 3 minutes his feet were under water. He subsequently taxied into water about 3 feet deep and came to rest with the landing gear down. He noted that the airplane normally sat about 18 inches deep in the water. The depth finder did not alert him to the presence of the submerged object prior to the collision.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The amphibious airplane's collision with submerged debris during taxi for takeoff, and the resulting damage to the hull.

Findings

Aircraft	Plates/skins (aux fuselage) - Damaged/degraded
Environmental issues	Hidden/submerged object - Effect on equipment

Factual Information

History of Flight

Taxi	Ground collision (Defining event)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	48, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea	Seat Occupied:	Left
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 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	June 1, 2008
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	348 hours (Total, all aircraft), 102 hours (Total, this make and model), 1 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Lake	Registration:	N1147L
Model/Series:	LA-4	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	309
Landing Gear Type:	Amphibian	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	August 22, 2008 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2400 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2452 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O&VO-360 SER
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	180 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:	DET,626 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	15 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	13:00 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	60°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	9 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	170°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Detroit, MI (DET)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Algonac, MI	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	13:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Coleman A Young Muni DET	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	626 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:		IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	42.609405,-82.530639(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Sorensen, Timothy
Additional Participating Persons:	Charles Elmer; FAA-Detroit FSDO; Belleville, MI
Original Publish Date:	January 22, 2009
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=69542

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