



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Apopka, Florida	Accident Number:	ERA09CA121
Date & Time:	December 17, 2008, 11:00 Local	Registration:	N85213
Aircraft:	Lake LA-4-200	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Hard landing	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot had completed two water landings to a lake and was climbing the airplane for a third when, about 200 feet above the water, he reduced power to simulate a "power out or reduced power landing." As the pilot "attempted to round out the glide for the landing," he could not arrest the descent and the airplane landed hard. The pilot took off again, then made a precautionary water landing to a full stop. The airplane and engine appeared to be undamaged, so the pilot took off again and made two touch-and-go landings to another lake, followed by a full stop landing. At that point the engine sounded "rough," so the pilot taxied to shore where he discovered that a propeller blade tip was missing, that a propeller strike had occurred to the turtle top, and that the hull was taking on water. Mechanics later changed the propeller, and the airplane was deemed airworthy to fly to another location for further inspection. A few days later, structural damage was found to cross-frames in the hull. Weather at a nearby airport, about the time of the hard landing, included clear skies and calm winds.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:
The pilot's improper flare.

Findings

Aircraft	Landing flare - Incorrect use/operation
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing	Hard landing (Defining event)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	69, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Glider	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	October 2, 2008
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	June 8, 2008
Flight Time:	1799 hours (Total, all aircraft), 116 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Lake	Registration:	N85213
Model/Series:	LA-4-200	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	1094
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	June 16, 2008 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2600 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3686 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO-360
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	200 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:	ORL	Distance from Accident Site:	18 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	10:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	140°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	23°C / 18°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Orlando, FL (ORL)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	Unknown
Destination:	Apopka, FL	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	10:45 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

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:	28.611665,-81.596946(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Cox, Paul
Additional Participating Persons:	Cheryl King; FAA/FSDO; Orlando, FL
Original Publish Date:	June 11, 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=73176

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