



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

|                                |                                       |                         |             |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Location:</b>               | East Moriches, New York               | <b>Accident Number:</b> | ERA13CA247  |
| <b>Date &amp; Time:</b>        | May 17, 2013, 15:30 Local             | <b>Registration:</b>    | N8775X      |
| <b>Aircraft:</b>               | Cessna 182D                           | <b>Aircraft Damage:</b> | Substantial |
| <b>Defining Event:</b>         | Miscellaneous/other                   | <b>Injuries:</b>        | 5 None      |
| <b>Flight Conducted Under:</b> | Part 91: General aviation - Skydiving |                         |             |

## Analysis

\*\*This report was modified on 1/8/1014. Please see the public docket for this accident to view the original report.\*\*

According to the pilot, he leveled the airplane at 8,500 feet for a tandem skydive. When the instructor exited the airplane, the nose pitched up, then the airplane pitched over into a right, descending turn. The pilot assessed the situation and determined that the right horizontal stabilizer was bent. He later determined that the instructor's drogue chute became trapped under the flap handle, resulting in a premature deployment of the parachute. The drogue chute then caught the horizontal stabilizer, resulting in a 45-degree downward bend. The pilot reported no pre-impact mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The inadvertent deployment of the skydiving instructor's drogue chute when he exited the airplane, resulting in it contacting and damaging the horizontal stabilizer.

## Findings

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Personnel issues</b> | Incorrect action selection - Passenger |
|-------------------------|--|

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

|                       |                                      |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Enroute-cruise</b> | Miscellaneous/other (Defining event) |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|

### Pilot Information

|                                  |  |  |                   |
|----------------------------------|--|--|-------------------|
| <b>Certificate:</b>              | Commercial; Flight instructor  | <b>Age:</b>                              | 34, Male          |
| <b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>       | Single-engine land; Multi-engine land  | <b>Seat Occupied:</b>                    | Left              |
| <b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b> | None   | <b>Restraint Used:</b>                   |                   |
| <b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>     | Airplane   | <b>Second Pilot Present:</b>             | No                |
| <b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>     | Airplane multi-engine; Airplane single-engine; Instrument airplane   | <b>Toxicology Performed:</b>             | No                |
| <b>Medical Certification:</b>    | Class 1 With waivers/limitations   | <b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>            | May 8, 2013       |
| <b>Occupational Pilot:</b>       | Yes  | <b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b> | December 11, 2011 |
| <b>Flight Time:</b>              | 1208 hours (Total, all aircraft), 6 hours (Total, this make and model), 1030 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 96 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 30 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft) |  |                   |

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

|                                      |                           |                                       |                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Aircraft Make:</b>                | Cessna                    | <b>Registration:</b>                  | N8775X          |
| <b>Model/Series:</b>                 | 182D                      | <b>Aircraft Category:</b>             | Airplane        |
| <b>Year of Manufacture:</b>          |                           | <b>Amateur Built:</b>                 |                 |
| <b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>    | Normal                    | <b>Serial Number:</b>                 | 18253175        |
| <b>Landing Gear Type:</b>            | Tricycle                  | <b>Seats:</b>                         | 1               |
| <b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b> | November 1, 2012 100 hour | <b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>       | 2650 lbs        |
| <b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>   |                           | <b>Engines:</b>                       | 1 Reciprocating |
| <b>Airframe Total Time:</b>          |                           | <b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>           | CONT MOTOR      |
| <b>ELT:</b>                          | Installed, not activated  | <b>Engine Model/Series:</b>           | O-470 SERIES    |
| <b>Registered Owner:</b>             | MURPHY FRANK E            | <b>Rated Power:</b>                   | 230 Horsepower  |
| <b>Operator:</b>                     | 516-Skydive               | <b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b> | None            |

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

|   |                                  |   |                  |
|---|----------------------------------|---|------------------|
| <b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>     | Visual (VMC)                     | <b>Condition of Light:</b>                  | Day              |
| <b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b> | FOK,66 ft msl                    | <b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>         | 6 Nautical Miles |
| <b>Observation Time:</b>                | 15:53 Local                      | <b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>        | 90°              |
| <b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>          | Clear                            | <b>Visibility</b>                           | 10 miles         |
| <b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>                  | None                             | <b>Visibility (RVR):</b>                    |                  |
| <b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>                | 8 knots / 16 knots               | <b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>     | /                |
| <b>Wind Direction:</b>                  | 340°                             | <b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b> | /                |
| <b>Altimeter Setting:</b>               | 30.07 inches Hg                  | <b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>               | 21°C / 3°C       |
| <b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>   | No Obscuration; No Precipitation |   |                  |
| <b>Departure Point:</b>                 | East Moriches, NY (49N)          | <b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>           | None             |
| <b>Destination:</b>                     | East Moriches, NY (49N)          | <b>Type of Clearance:</b>                   | VFR              |
| <b>Departure Time:</b>                  | 15:14 Local                      | <b>Type of Airspace:</b>                    |                  |

## Airport Information

|                             |                    |                                  |      |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|------|
| <b>Airport:</b>             | Lufker Airport 49N | <b>Runway Surface Type:</b>      |      |
| <b>Airport Elevation:</b>   | 57 ft msl          | <b>Runway Surface Condition:</b> |      |
| <b>Runway Used:</b>         |                    | <b>IFR Approach:</b>             | None |
| <b>Runway Length/Width:</b> |                    | <b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>     | None |

## Wreckage and Impact Information

|                            |        |                             |                            |
|----------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Crew Injuries:</b>      | 3 None | <b>Aircraft Damage:</b>     | Substantial                |
| <b>Passenger Injuries:</b> | 2 None | <b>Aircraft Fire:</b>       | None                       |
| <b>Ground Injuries:</b>    | N/A    | <b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>  | None                       |
| <b>Total Injuries:</b>     | 5 None | <b>Latitude, Longitude:</b> | 40.824722,-72.750831 (est) |

## Administrative Information

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>     | Hicks, Ralph  |
| <b>Additional Participating Persons:</b> | Jim Ciccone; FAA/FSDO; Farmingdale, NY  |
| <b>Original Publish Date:</b>            | July 23, 2013   |
| <b>Last Revision Date:</b>               |   |
| <b>Investigation Class:</b>              | <a href="#">Class</a>   |
| <b>Note:</b>                             | This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.     |
| <b>Investigation Docket:</b>             | <a href="https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=86945">https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=86945</a> |

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