



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	SEASIDE HEIGHTS, NJ	Accident Number:	NYC95LA211
Date & Time:	09/01/1995, 1530 EDT	Registration:	N5TB
Aircraft:	LAKE LA-4-200	Injuries:	1 Minor, 1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE PILOT OF AN AMPHIBIOUS AIRPLANE DEPARTED FROM AN AREA OF WATER WITH WAVES AND BOAT WAVES. DURING THE INITIAL TAKEOFF CLIMB, ABOUT 10 FEET ABOVE THE WATER, THE ENGINE LOST TOTAL POWER. THE PILOT LANDED THE PLANE BACK ON THE WATER, BUT 'SLIGHTLY NOSE DOWN,' AND THE FUSELAGE WAS BUCKLED. AN OPERATIONAL CHECK OF THE ENGINE WAS MADE, AND NOTHING ABNORMAL WAS NOTED.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's inadequate flare for landing, which resulted in an in-flight collision with rough water. Factors relating to the accident were: loss of engine power for an undetermined reason and rough water.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings
1. (F) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY LANDING AFTER TAKEOFF

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY LANDING AFTER TAKEOFF

Findings
2. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - WATER, ROUGH
3. (C) FLARE - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	32
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Sea	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	500 hours (Total, all aircraft), 150 hours (Total, this make and model), 15 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 15 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	LAKE	Registration:	N5TB
Model/Series:	LA-4-200 LA-4-200	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	THOMAS BUCK	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	IO-360-A1B
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Witness
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots / , 230°
Temperature:	27° C	Visibility	0 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	(NONE)	Destination:	

Airport Information

Airport:	SEASIDE PARK (NONE)	Runway Surface Type:	Water
Runway Used:	0	Runway Surface Condition:	Rough; Water--choppy
Runway Length/Width:			

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): CHARLES F LEONARD

Adopted Date: 03/21/1996

Investigation Docket: NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at pubinq@ntsb.gov, or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/>.

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