



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	GUNTERSVILLE, AL	Accident Number:	ATL88LA127
Date & Time:	04/01/1988, 1500 CST	Registration:	N50715
Aircraft:	CESSNA 150J	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE SEAPLANE COLLIDED WITH THE WATER SHORTLY AFTER TAKEOFF. THE PLT RPTD THAT A LARGE SPIDER DROPPED IN FRONT OF HIM AND DISTRACTED HIM. THE AIRPLANE WAS IN A GRADUAL RIGHT TURN ABOUT 100 FT ABOVE THE WATER AT THE TIME. HE ATTEMPTED TO SWAT THE SPIDER WITH HIS HAT AND INADVERTENTLY ALLOWED THE AIRPLANE TO DESCEND INTO THE WATER. THE AIRPLANE FLIPPED OVER AND CAME TO REST INVERTED. HE EXITED THE AIRPLANE AS IT SANK AND WAS RESCUED BY A FISHERMAN. THE PLT NOTED THAT THE WATER WAS GLASSY AND THAT THE SKY WAS OVERCAST AT THE TIME. HE INDICATED THAT THE LACK OF NEARBY OUTSIDE VISUAL REFERENCES CONTRIBUTED TO HIS INADVERTENTLY ALLOWING THE AIRPLANE TO DESCEND INTO THE WATER.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

1. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - WATER, GLASSY
 2. (F) OBJECT - ANIMAL(S)
 3. (C) VISUAL LOOKOUT - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
 4. (C) ALTITUDE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
 5. (F) DIVERTED ATTENTION - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: NOSE OVER
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	50
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Glider	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	1715 hours (Total, all aircraft), 26 hours (Total, this make and model), 1671 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 35 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N50715
Model/Series:	150J 150J	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	FRANK RYDER	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-320-E2D
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:	Pilot
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 3000 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Calm / ,
Temperature:	24° C	Visibility	5 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Destination:		

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	SCOTT STRICKLAND	Adopted Date:	07/26/1989
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 pubin@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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