



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	MERCER ISLAND, WA	Accident Number:	SEA01LA022
Date & Time:	12/01/2000, 1100 PST	Registration:	N8551Z
Aircraft:	Aerofab Inc. LAKE 250	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot began a takeoff run to the west, planning a left step turn and liftoff to the south. Just after starting the step turn, while on the step at a speed of about 40 knots in 'a normal left turn step attitude', and 'skidding and bouncing a bit to the right through the chop as is normal in the step turn', the pilot was violently thrown to the right, striking his head on the right side door post (despite having his seat belt and shoulder harness on.) He reported that he was heading about west to southwest when this occurred. The plane came to an instantaneous stop at this point. Investigators did not find any evidence of aircraft malfunctions occurring prior to the sudden stoppage in the water.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to maintain aircraft control during a left turning step taxi to takeoff, resulting in a wing contacting the water during the step turn.

Findings

Occurrence #1: DRAGGED WING, ROTOR, POD, FLOAT OR TAIL/SKID
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF

Findings

- (C) AIRCRAFT CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

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):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	1328 hours (Total, all aircraft), 813 hours (Total, this make and model), 1228 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 34 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 17 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Aerofab Inc.	Registration:	N8551Z
Model/Series:	LAKE 250 LAKE 250	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	ROBERT J. EARLE	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	TIO-540-AA1AD
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:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	4 knots / , 180°
Temperature:	40° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Destination: UNKNOWN		

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):	GREGG NESEMEIER	Adopted Date:	07/17/2001
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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