



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Eagle Bay, NY	Accident Number:	ERA13CA353
Date & Time:	08/02/2013, 1800 EDT	Registration:	N555AX
Aircraft:	PIPER/CUB CRAFTERS PA-18-150	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Controlled flight into terr/obj (CFIT)	Injuries:	1 Minor, 1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot of the amphibian airplane reported that she was flying a visual approach to a lake, over mountainous terrain. On an approximate 3/4 mile final approach to the lake, she observed a boat near her intended landing area and performed a go-around to circle for another approach. During the go-around and turn, the pilot did not move the throttle lever to full power. About one-fourth through the turn, she noticed the airplane was descending and increased engine power. The airplane continued to descend and she increased engine power a second time; however, one of the airplane's floats contacted a tree and the airplane impacted the ground. The pilot further stated that the accident could have been prevented if she had flown a higher approach and increased the throttle to full engine power immediately during the go-around. Examination of the airplane by a Federal Aviation Administration inspector revealed substantial damage to the wings and the fuselage. The pilot reported no preimpact mechanical malfunctions with the airplane and the inspector did not observe any.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to set the engine throttle to full power during a go-around.

Findings

Aircraft	Power lever - Incorrect use/operation (Cause)
Personnel issues	Incorrect action performance - Pilot (Cause)

Factual Information

History of Flight

Approach-VFR go-around Controlled flight into terr/obj (CFIT) (Defining event)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	52, Female
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 With Waivers/Limitations	Last Medical Exam:	03/23/2012
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	06/27/2012
Flight Time:	470 hours (Total, all aircraft), 46 hours (Total, this make and model), 8 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 0 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	PIPER/CUB CRAFTERS	Registration:	N555AX
Model/Series:	PA-18-150	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	9927CC
Landing Gear Type:	Amphibian	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	05/25/2013, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	20 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	665 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	O-360
Registered Owner:	DEW DONALD H	Rated Power:	180 hp
Operator:	DEW DONALD H	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	GTB, 688 ft msl	Observation Time:	1758 EDT
Distance from Accident Site:	40 Nautical Miles	Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:	290°	Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Temperature/Dew Point:	22° C / 15° C
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	8 knots, 260°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	29.82 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Inlet, NY (NONE)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Eagle Bay, NY	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1745 EDT	Type of Airspace:	

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
Total Injuries:	1 Minor, 1 None		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Robert J Gretz	Adopted Date:	09/05/2013
Additional Participating Persons:	Dennis Shepherd; FAA/FSDO; Albany, NY		
Publish Date:	09/05/2013		
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=87695		

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