



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Shaw Island, WA	Accident Number:	WPR14CA086
Date & Time:	01/03/2014, 1600 PST	Registration:	N5484U
Aircraft:	DEHAVILLAND BEAVER DHC 2 MK.1	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot was departing on a personal local flight from a narrow, tree-lined, private airstrip, located on a small island, in a single-engine, amphibious float-equipped airplane. After lifting off, as he approached the departure end of the runway, the airplane suddenly rolled left into the trees. The airplane came to rest at the base of the trees, standing on its nose and float tips. The pilot said there were no known preaccident mechanical anomalies with the airplane, and that he thought either the flap system or aileron system had malfunctioned causing the abrupt left roll. The airplane sustained substantial damage to both wings and the fuselage.

The pilot reported that when he took off the wind was calm. A resident of the island, who was working outside, heard and responded to the accident. He said the wind at his residence was gusty and varying in direction. The departure end of the runway is over a bay, and he said there were whitecaps on the bay when he arrived at the accident site.

Two islands, one to the north and one to the west of the accident island, have automated weather reporting stations. The island to the north was reporting wind at 12 knots gusting to 20 knots. The island to the west was reporting calm wind.

On site documentation revealed there was a break in the tree-line along the right side of the runway, about the same area where the loss of control occurred. A commercial airplane operator reported that he suspended flight operations to neighboring islands the afternoon of the accident, due to wind/wind shear.

A postaccident examination of the airframe did not reveal any mechanical malfunctions or failures that would have precluded normal operation.

Flight Events

Takeoff - Loss of control in flight

Initial climb - Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Probable Cause

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

The pilot's failure to maintain directional control during takeoff in variable wind conditions, resulting in a collision with trees lining the left side of the runway.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-Directional control-Not attained/maintained - C

Personnel issues-Task performance-Use of equip/info-Aircraft control-Pilot - C

Environmental issues-Conditions/weather/phenomena-Wind-Variable wind-Effect on operation

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Private	Age:	82
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	16169 hours (Total, all aircraft), 4400 hours (Total, this make and model), 15870 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 52 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 11 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	DEHAVILLAND	Registration:	N5484U
Model/Series:	BEAVER DHC 2 MK.1 MARKI	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	On file	Engine Manufacturer:	P&W
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	R-985 SERIES
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	KFHR, 20 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Pilot
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Calm
Temperature:	7° C	Visibility	3 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Shaw Island, WA	Destination:	Shaw Island, WA

Airport Information

Airport:	Private Shaw Island (none)	Runway Surface Type:	Dirt; Grass/turf
Runway Used:	none	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry; Rough
Runway Length/Width:	1500 ft / 75 ft		

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Lawrence Lewis	Adopted Date:	05/05/2014
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=88625		

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