

No. 22

Noorduyn Norseman IV aircraft, CF-DFF, crashed at Cowan Lake, Sask. on 7 April 1951 whilst on a charter flight. Dept. of Transport, Air Services Branch, Civil Aviation Division, Report No. 51-14.

Circumstances

The aircraft took off from Cowan Lake, Sask. with six passengers on board. During the take-off and when about to become air borne, the aircraft lurched and the port ski was observed to be hanging free of the undercarriage leg, remaining attached to the aircraft by the rear check cable only. The pilot immediately throttled back and landed the aircraft on the starboard ski. After continuing for 200 - 300 feet the aircraft settled on the port side and turned over on its back. The pilot and passengers escaped with minor injuries. The aircraft was completely consumed by fire.

Investigation and Evidence

Due to snowdrifts and slush the take-off area was rough and made up of layers of water and ice caused by melted snow freezing overnight. The port ski of the aircraft appeared to have broken through the top layer of ice, hit a covered hammock of snow or ice and broke off at the oleo leg piston. The cause of the cabin fire was not determined but it was noted that the engine was operating at the time of the accident and a packet of matches which was being carried by one of the passengers ignited.

Probable Cause

The probable cause of this accident was a forced landing on the starboard ski due to failure of the port oleo leg during take-off.