



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Anchorage, AK	Accident Number:	ANC09CA050
Date & Time:	06/07/2009, 1350 AKD	Registration:	N915RC
Aircraft:	DE HAVILLAND DHC-2	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	4 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The private pilot was taking off in the float plane from the lake's west waterway. The airplane was on step, gaining airspeed, and the takeoff run seemed normal to the pilot. The airplane was nearing takeoff speed, and proceeding directly down the waterway, when it encountered a right quartering tailwind gust that lifted up the right wing and float. The airplane veered to the left toward a steep bank, and the pilot was unable to correct the deviation with the rudder. He did not feel that he could reduce power as he would slam into the bank. The airplane lifted off, but the float collided with the top of the bank. The airplane cartwheeled about 160 degrees to the left before coming to rest on its right side. It sustained substantial damage to the wings, fuselage, and floats. The pilot reported that there were no mechanical malfunctions or failures. Reported wind at the airport approximately 3 minutes after the accident was from 020 degrees magnetic at 3 knots, with no recorded gusts.

Probable Cause and Findings

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.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Crosswind - Awareness of condition

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	40, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Without Waivers/Limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	01/07/2009
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	512 hours (Total, all aircraft), 21 hours (Total, this make and model), 406 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 16 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 13 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	DE HAVILLAND	Registration:	N915RC
Model/Series:	DHC-2	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	70
Landing Gear Type:	Float	Seats:	5
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	05/14/2009, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	5370 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	5 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2350 Hours at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Pratt & Whitney
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	R-985
Registered Owner:	James M Eule	Rated Power:	440 hp
Operator:	James M Eule	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PALH, 71 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1353 ADT	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	3 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	20°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.88 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	22° C / 8° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Anchorage, AK (ALH)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Bulchitna Lake, AK	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1350 ADT	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Lake Hood Seaplane (ALH)	Runway Surface Type:	Water
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	Water--calm
Runway Used:	27	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	3 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	4 None	Latitude, Longitude:	61.180000, -149.971944 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Howard D Plagens	Report Date:	09/10/2009
Additional Participating Persons:	Richard Ebert; FAA Anchorage FSDO; Anchorage, AK		
Publish Date:	09/10/2009		
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=73975		

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