



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Hollister, California	Accident Number:	GAA19CA108
Date & Time:	May 28, 2019, 15:30 Local	Registration:	N501J
Aircraft:	De Havilland DHC 2	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Landing gear not configured	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot in the amphibious float-equipped airplane reported that he intended to perform a water landing. On the downwind leg of the approach, he performed his prelanding checks from memory, and he confirmed that the three green landing gear safe lights were illuminated. However, he added that he "should have looked for blue lights." The pilot landed on the water with the landing gear wheels extended, and the airplane pitched forward and nosed over. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the right wing, the empennage, and the windscreen. The pilot asserted that he "should have used a checklist once airborne. Both the after takeoff and before landing checks would have saved me from this event." The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

The pilot's failure to retract the amphibious float's landing gear wheels before landing on the water. Contributing to the accident was the pilot's failure to use the after takeoff and before landing checklists.

Findings

Aircraft	Configuration - Incorrect use/operation
Personnel issues	Use of equip/system - Pilot
Environmental issues	Water - Effect on operation
Personnel issues	Use of checklist - Pilot

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-flare/touchdown	Landing gear not configured (Defining event)
Landing-flare/touchdown	Nose over/nose down

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline transport; Commercial; Flight instructor	Age:	63,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	October 25, 2018
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	May 7, 2019
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 15560 hours (Total, all aircraft), 111 hours (Total, this make and model), 11326 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 37 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 9 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	De Havilland	Registration:	N501J
Model/Series:	DHC 2 I	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	2004	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Unknown	Serial Number:	1451
Landing Gear Type:	Amphibian	Seats:	8
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	June 19, 2018 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	5370 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	4690 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	PRATT & WHITNEY
ELT:	C91A installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	R-985 AN-14B
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	450 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	CVH,705 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	17 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	22:35 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	313°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	15 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	260°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.96 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	21°C / 13°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Hollister, CA (CVH)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Hollister, CA (CVH)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	15:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	37.038055,-121.118057(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Hicks, Michael
Additional Participating Persons:	Abigail Cahoon; FAA; Fresno, CA
Original Publish Date:	April 13, 2020
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=98901

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