



NTSB MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

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Date: 1/24/2022
Person Contacted: Daniel Peregrin (Passenger #1)
NTSB Accident Number: ERA22LA097

Narrative:

The individual noted above provided the following information via a telephone call. The below contents are a summary of what was reported:

- He has flown a fair amount in private airplanes, but this was his first time in a single-engine piston airplane.
- He called the FBO at the Naples, Florida airport and they provided a few charter operators that might be able to take him and his wife to Marathon, Florida. He eventually reached ExecAir and they said they could do the flight (he talked to a "John").
- For the flight from Naples to Marathon, the female pilot provided a passenger briefing. She told them about their seat belts and how to brace for impact. The flight down to Marathon was uneventful.
- Upon the return flight from Marathon to Naples, he recalled that there was a problem with the co-pilot door closing prior to flight. It was eventually shut closed.
- He recalled that after the pilot started the engine before the taxi, the engine quit and needed to be re-started. This troubled him.
- About 12-14 minutes into the flight, they were still climbing, over water, and it felt as if they hit something, but looking back, he believed this could have been a sudden noise coming from the engine. It was very bumpy suddenly. There was a lot of vibration. It felt like they were riding in an "off-road truck" at this point in the flight.
- He could tell the pilot was very nervous and she was talking to air traffic control and the airplane was getting closer and closer to the water.
- He and his wife were wondering if they should unbuckle or buckle. The pilot did not provide any instructions or information.
- The pilot never turned around and said anything, with exception to her saying, "Open Doors". He then reached forward and opened the left pilot door. His wife attempted to open the co-pilot door; however, she could not get it open.
- This call to "open doors" was nearly simultaneous with their impact with the water.
- He believed the engine remained on through the impact, although there was a severe vibration throughout the airplane.
- Upon impact he was ejected from his seat into the "dashboard". The airplane filled with water immediately.



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- He exited the pilot side door because the right door could not be opened, and the pilot was seated rather far forward, so there was plenty of room to exit. The water was up to their knees almost immediately. His wife attempted to exit the left side door (because the right door would not open), however, as the airplane started to sink and fill with more water, her leg became stuck in the door. He swam under water and released his wife's foot from the door. He then helped the pilot out of the airplane.
- He asked the pilot if there were life vest. She appeared to be in shock and said her back hurt, her neck hurt, and her wrist hurt.
- He took the pilots phone and got onto the wing to call for help, but he could not get service.
- He searched inside the airplane for life vests or anything else to help while they were stranded, but he didn't see anything other than his briefcase.
- He said that the lack of communication from the pilot was troubling.
- He never saw any life vests ever in the airplane. The pilot told him they were up front somewhere.
- It was nearing dusk, so he asked the pilot for a flare gun or if one was onboard, but she did not respond and was confused by the question.
- A nearby recreational boater rescued them a short time after the water landing.
- He and his wife did not sustain any broken bones and were hospitalized for about four hours. They did receive some injuries.
- He is an experienced water diver. His wife is an ER doctor.

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