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Date: 8/25/2023, 9/26/2023

Subject: ERA23LA349

Contact: CHARLES O'BRIEN (Private Pilot)

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

- He reported the flight departed 2W6 airport. The purpose of flight was to complete an FAA checkride for a private pilot sea plane rating add-on.
- The flight was in a downwind leg to land on a lake, about 800 ft agl. It was the first water landing of the flight. He reduced power to 20" manifold pressure and added one notch of flaps. He then checked that the fuel cut off switch was down and IN, which is the normal engine operation position.
- He reported that shortly after the above described configure changes, he heard a change in engine power noise. He moved the throttle and received no reaction from the engine.
- He pushed the throttle, propeller, and mixture controls forward, and again, there was no reaction from the engine. About this time, the airplane was about 600 ft agl.
- He reported that at this point, he asked the designated pilot examiner (DPE) to take over the flight controls, which he did.
- He could not recall if it appeared to be a partial loss of power, or total loss of power. He could not recall whether the propeller was windmilling.
- The DPE continued the flight path ahead towards a corn field. During the impact, the airplane nosed over in the corn.
- He recalled they departed with about 30-37 gallons of fuel.

- He reported that they had briefed prior to flight, if there was a real emergency, the DPE would take over. They flew what they briefed.

Mr. O'Brien was contacted again on 9/26/2023, and was asked about the configuration in the cockpit:

- He recalled that the fuel boost pump was used for engine start. It was then turned off, and he had no memory of using the boost pump again in-flight at any time.
- He recalled that the mixture was rich throughout the flight.
- He recalled that the fuel selector was on both during the flight, and after the loss of power, the selection was moved to either the left or right tank, but he cannot recall which direction the selector was moved toward.

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