

On 3/29/2025, at approximately 12:00 p.m., my Seaplane instructor, Sean Swift, and I were taking off in Piper Super Cub N38BS from Jack Brown's Seaplane Base at Lake Jesse when the engine began to sputter, and we had to make an emergency landing. I was conducting training at Jack Brown's Seaplane Base to obtain my commercial seaplane rating.

Prior to the flight, I used the checklist to pre-flight the aircraft. The fuel was sumped from all three points with no contamination visible and one quart of oil was added prior to leaving. On startup, the engine started right up. We had just completed a previous flight in the same aircraft approximately 1 ½ hours before. At runup, I again used the checklist to complete the runup procedures. During the runup, the mags were checked at 1,000 RPM (25 drop on the right/50 drop on the left) and the oil pressure and oil temperature were in the green. During this time, I observed two jet skis and a boat to the right of our takeoff path and one boat towards the end of the lake to the left of our path. On our takeoff float, I again observed that the oil pressure and oil temperature were in the green. Upon lifting off the water, everything seemed normal until about 100-150 feet (approximate) off the water when the engine began to sputter. I then felt Sean on the throttle going from full throttle to idle and back to full. Sean advised that he was taking over the controls as I began to descend and turn left to stay over the water. As we descended, it seemed that we had enough airspeed; however, I did not look at the airspeed indicator as I was fixated on the water and boat traffic since we were so low over the water. I noticed that we were coming down faster than a normal approach as we got close to the water. As we hit the water on the floats, the left float seemed to have given out and the front of the seaplane dipped forward. When the seaplane came to rest, Sean and I exited the aircraft on the right float and made sure everything was off.

This statement was made by Lonnie Brasby.