

09/3/2025

Statement of loss N3576D

On September 1st, 2025 at about 11:00 local time my wife Cathy Vorpagel and I departed the southeast side of Echo lake in Fayette, Maine. Before departure I completed a thorough pre-flight inspection and passenger briefing , along with a runup. We took a casual route to Flagstaff lake, in the greater Eustis area. I landed about 9 miles from the state boat landing. I then taxied to a sandy beach and we had lunch.

At about 13:30 local time, I did another pre-flight inspection, sumped floats, checked fuel and oil, etc. I did a complete run up with mag check, carb heat check, and checked controls for free and correct. I then started my takeoff run to the south. Power was set to maximum, no wind, after I rotated out of water I held level to build climb speed. Checking engine gauges and airspeed I started to retract flaps. At this point we impacted the water surface and flipped over. I believe Cathy's door, right side opened on impact, she was able to release seat belt and swim clear. I had a struggle releasing my seatbelt due to disorientation, and was unable to get my door (left) open. Finally I was able to swim through the broken tail section. We deployed our inflatable pfd's and I retrieved our survival pack which had floated free. Cathy started shouting for help and within a few minutes help arrived and got us aboard their pontoon boat. Cathy administered first aid to my cuts and abrasions. About one hour after the accident the Fire rescue boat with EMT's aboard arrived on scene and checked both Cathy and I for injuries. They then transported us to shore.

This statement details the events as best as I can recall,

[REDACTED]

Stephen Vorpagel