



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Daniel Boggs
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region

Date: 9/17/2025
Subject: Steven Vorpapel –pilot interview
NTSB Case Number: ERA25LA347

Mr. Vorpapel was interviewed by telephone.

Mr. Vorpapel stated that he and his wife flew out to a local lake and performed a water landing in their floatplane. Then they taxied to a sandy beach for lunch and then a couple hours later was going to return to their home airport. During takeoff, he leveled off the airplane about 15 ft above the water to gain airspeed. The wind was calm and the water was flat and glassy looking. He raised the flaps and the next thing he remembered was he hit the water and flipped over. He stated he believed he lost situational awareness and when he leaned forward to raise the flaps and he pushed a little forward on the control stick and the airplane contacted the water.

Daniel Boggs
NTSB