

Brief of Accident

Adopted 12/20/2005

SEA05LA114
File No. 18848 06/11/2005 Wenatchee, WA Aircraft Reg No. N1198Z Time (Local): 14:30 PDT

Make/Model: Avia Stroitel / AC-4B
Engine Make/Model:
Aircraft Damage: Destroyed
Number of Engines: 0
Operating Certificate(s): None
Type of Flight Operation: Instructional
Reg. Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation

	Fatal	Serious	Minor/None
Crew	1	0	0
Pass	0	0	0

Last Depart. Point: Same as Accident/Incident Location
Destination: Local Flight, WA
Airport Proximity: Off Airport/Airstrip

Condition of Light: Day
Weather Info Src: Weather Observation Facility
Basic Weather: Visual Conditions
Lowest Ceiling: None
Visibility: 10.00 SM
Wind Dir/Speed: 280 / 007 Kts
Temperature (°C): 23
Precip/Obscuration:

Pilot-in-Command Age: 17

Flight Time (Hours)

Certificate(s)/Rating(s)
Student; Glider

Total All Aircraft: 12
Last 90 Days: 12
Total Make/Model: 1
Total Instrument Time: UnK/Nr

Instrument Ratings
None

The pilot's instructor said that the student pilot had approximately 12 hours of flight experience over 18 training flights; he said that this was the student pilot's first flight in this make and model of aircraft. The student pilot was scheduled to fly a one hour flight. When he did not return, a search airplane departed and found the glider on the back side of a mountain ridge approximately 3 nautical miles from the airport. The tow-pilot that towed the glider airborne said that on the ground, the wind was variable from 240 degrees to 280 degrees at 11 to 13 knots. He further stated that the student "did a great job [on departure], he was in position all the time." The tow-pilot said that when he passed through 4,250 feet, the student released from the tow rope. He said that the "ridge lift" just northeast of the airport was "very good."

Brief of Accident (Continued)

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Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

1. (C) ALTITUDE/CLEARANCE - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Findings Legend: (C) = Cause, (F) = Factor

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows.
The pilot's failure to maintain terrain clearance for undetermined reasons.