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Subject: Materials Lab Email Factual Report - CEN13LA188 - Olathe, KS - 3/7/2013
Date: Thursday, May 23, 2013 12:26:04 PM

ACCIDENT INFORMATION:

Place: Olathe, Kansas

Date: March 7, 2013

Vehicle: Piper PA-46-350P, N715BB

NTSB No.: CEN13LA188

Investigator: Michael Folkerts, ASI-CEN

COMPONENTS EXAMINED:

Lower section of engine mount containing fractured nose landing gear attachment feet.

DETAILS OF THE EXAMINATION:

The engine mount was of a welded tubular construction. At the aft end of the engine mount structure were two attachment feet (left and right), to which the aft end of the nose landing gear actuator was attached. The attachment feet were shaped like thin-walled metal cylinders and each foot was welded to three support tubes. One of the support tubes attached to the left attachment foot was fractured in two locations. One location was at a fillet weld joining the tube to the attachment foot. The second fracture was approximately one inch from the fillet weld fracture. Both fractures had a matte grey appearance and were generally oriented at 45 degrees to the support tube longitudinal axis, consistent with an overstress fracture.

On the right attachment foot, there was a circumferential fracture at the inboard end of the foot and there was a longitudinal fracture along the cylindrical wall of the foot. Both fractures had a matte grey appearance. The circumferential fracture was generally oriented at 45 degrees to the longitudinal axis of the foot and the longitudinal fracture was oriented generally at 45 degrees to the surface of the cylindrical wall. The appearance of both surfaces was consistent with an overstress fracture.