

INSPECTOR STATEMENT

2/16/2023 at 11:30

INTERVIEW WITH KENNETH LOWRANCE

GEAR UP LANDING AT ST. LOUIS DOWNTOWN AIRPORT (KCPS) ON 2/15/23

Inspector Shurlow and Bettis

Mr. Lowrance was provided a compliance brochure on 2/16/2023 during interview with Inspectors (Inspector Shurlow wrote that he was identified as the pilot-in-command of N7681F that landed gear up on runway 30L of the down St. Louis Airport (KCPS)).

Mr. Lowrance told inspectors Shurlow and Bettis that he was flying his aircraft N7681F, a PA 34 Seneca conducting take-offs and landings. Mr. Lowrance stated that he had completed 3 take-off and landings and was performing his 4th landing when the tower requested that he perform a short approach to land ahead of a DA-20, training aircraft on runway 30L. Mr. Lowrance stated that he normally drops the gear during the turn from downwind to base. Mr. Lowrance stated that he dropped the gear during the turn to final when conducting the short approach to land in front of the DA-20. Mr. Lowrance stated that he did not see the three green position lights because the sun was in his eyes, he did not hear a gear warning horn and stated that he heard the scrapping of metal as the aircraft lowered onto the runway. Mr. Lowrance stated that he always lowers the gear below 115 knots and not the 129 as Piper has listed in the manual.

Mr. Lowrance stated that he wished he would of declined the short approach and or asked for an extended downwind and just followed the DA-20 in.