

Fairchild 24 N81210 CEN25LA245

Greeley 07/09/2025 accident, ground loop with substantial damage to the left gear leg and left wing. No injuries.

On 07/31/2025 this inspector reviewed the damage to the tail structure of the aircraft post removal of the tailwheel suspension and steering assembly by the aircraft owner and mechanic.

Rub marks were visible on the right diagonal steel tubing in the tail structure where the steering arm of the tailwheel assembly had been making contact.



These wear mark observations could only be made after the removal of the steering post and would not have been visible during a routine annual inspection.

The statements made by the pilot that he put in a correction to the right and the plane would not turn in that direction can be explained by the steering arm rubbing or getting caught behind the aircraft structure.

Of note is the observation of the pilot rated mechanic who taxied the plane on the day of the accident that it would not turn right, he inspected the plane and found no anomalies and it functioned correctly post inspection. He recalled an earlier episode the previous year where this had happened at the Red Oak IA airport. No anomalies were found that day on inspection either.

It is the opinion of this inspector that these tailwheel steering issues happened under load and likely could not be reproduced during maintenance inspections.

The aircraft owner is also the certificated maintainer of this aircraft and holds inspection authorization was using all available maintenance manuals and a checklist during the last annual.

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