



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Pilot Statement

Peter Wentz
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Interview Date: 02/18/2021
Person Derek Hendrie (Pilot)
Contact # [REDACTED]
NTSB Accident Number: ERA21LA131

Narrative:

The following is a summary of a conversation that occurred with the individual named above:

Mr. Hendrie stated he conducted a preflight of the airplane and found no anomalies. He took off about 5:45pm and stayed in the local area for about 30 minutes. He returned to Placid Lakes airport (09FA) and conducted two full stop landings and take offs with no issues. On the third landing, he recalls everything normal until it came time to flare the airplane for landing. He stated that "when it came time to pull back on the stick, the stick was jammed". He stated that he had forward travel on the control stick, but once he transitioned into the flare the control stick would not travel backwards and at that point, he was very close to the runway, which resulted in a hard landing. He stated that the landing was so hard that the main landing gear failed, and the airplane stopped quickly in the dirt. Mr. Hendrie stated there were no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation. He recalls on the last approach that he had to slip the airplane because he was too high, he stated that due to the attitude of the airplane that the back seat cushion moved forward and jammed up against the aft seat control stick, which jammed the flight controls and resulted in the pilot's ability to flare the airplane. He added that after the accident the control stick was clear of any debris and the flight controls moved free and clear.