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Air Safety Investigator
AS-ERA

Date: 5/30/2023

Subject: ERA22LA296, FAA Inspector Statement

Contact: Angela Kachinski, Aviation Safety Inspector, Nashville FSDO

Inspector Kachinski sent the following statement to the IIC by email on May 30, 2023 at 1241 EDT.

"ON 06/30/2022, N721SD, AN AMERICAN CHAMPION AIRCRAFT 8KCAB, LANDED AT KNOXVILLE DOWNTOWN ISLAND AIRPORT. UPON THIRD LANDING AT DKX PILOT AND STUDENT HEARD A LOUD BANG AND THE AIRCRAFT IMMEDIATELY BEGAN PULLING TO THE LEFT, OFF THE RUNWAY AND INTO A DITCH. AS THE AIRCRAFT EXITED RUNWAY, THE PROPELLER STRUCK THE GROUND AND THE AIRCRAFT CAME TO A STOP, SETTLING ON THE LEFT WING.

INSPECTION OF THE AIRCRAFT REVEALED THE LEFT LANDING GEAR THROUGH BOLT HAD SHEARED. THE AIRCRAFT WAS OUT OF ANNUAL INSPECTION FOR OVER A YEAR. THE MANUFACTURERS MAINTENANCE MANUAL REQUIRES LANDING GEAR U-BOLTS AND THROUGH BOLTS BE REMOVED AND INSPECTED EVERY 100 HOUR AND ANNUAL INSPECTION, AND REPLACED AS NECESSARY. THE MANUFACTURERS MAINTENANCE MANUAL REQUIRES MANDATORY CHANGE OF THE U-BOLTS AND THROUGH BOLTS EVERY 500 HOURS. IT COULD NOT BE VERIFIED IN AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE RECORDS WHEN THE LAST BOLT CHANGE OCCURED. THE AIRCRAFT WAS NOT FOUND TO BE AIRWORTHY AT TIME OF FLIGHT."