

Leah D. Read  
Sr. ASI / ERA

**Date:** May 18, 2023  
**Subject:** ERA23FA235  
**Contact:** Mr. Dusty Garus

The pilot sent FAA Inspector Charles E. Lewis the following written statement via email on May 18, 2023, at 7:33 pm EDT.

*"Charles,*

*Thank you very much for all of your assistance so far. Please see my statement below regarding the accident this morning.*

*Accident Statement*

*I have been landing airplanes on this runway since 1998. I have landed the Honda Jet numerous times at this airport on a wet runway.*

*It had rained heavy about an hour prior to our arrival and there was water on the runway. I actually took extra time getting to the Wilkes County Airport (UKF) in order to delay our departure to allow heavy rain to pass in Summerville (DYB) prior to our arrival.*

*On approach I flew the RNAV 24 coupled to AP and took over hand-flying around 600 ft. The wind was calm, precipitation was light, if any, and ceilings were 7000 broken. I made the final approach at Vref with full flaps and touched down early in the TDZ. I then applied full brake pressure.*

*The brakes immediately began to pulsate in anti-skid mode and because of that, very little braking effort was being done to slow the plane despite full pedal pressure.*

*It became apparent about halfway down the runway that we wouldn't make the turn off at the second taxiway like we normally do but I was not concerned because there was plenty of remaining runway and this plane has always stopped with reserve length remaining even when this runway is wet.*

*At one point I briefly considered a go-around, but the left brake grabbed suddenly and sent us into a hard turn. This began a sequence of left and right skids while I worked to maintain directional control between the left and right runway edges. At that point there wasn't enough runway remaining to power up for a go-around.*

*We went off the end of the threshold, slid through the grass and down an embankment before coming to a hard stop. The right wing caught on fire. I secured the fuel and electrical, grabbed the fire extinguisher and we all evacuated safely."*

*Respectfully,*

*Dusty Garus*