



**Federal Aviation
Administration**

INSPECTOR STATEMENT

H. Todd Clamp
Aviation Safety Inspector (Operations)
SO-FSDO-13

Date: May 30, 2023

Subject: Accident ERA23LA160

Digest:

This particular flight was a training flight for familiarization with the Maule aircraft. The pilot/owner stated that he and Instructor Pilot flew the left pattern for runway 08 at Abbeville, SC and were too high. The aircraft was put into a slip to lose altitude. Upon touchdown the aircraft entered a ground loop causing substantial damage to the aircraft.

The aircraft owner was the pilot in the left seat who hired a CFI to check him out and who was positioned in the right seat. The owner stated that he was current for tailwheel airplane and had high performance and tailwheel endorsements. He stated that he told CFI that he wanted an instructor because the Abbeville Airport (SC81) runway is short and narrow and he needed help landing at SC81. Both the owner and the CFI has denied any involvement in the ground loop.

On a March 22 email from Instructor Pilot to Front Line Manager reporting the March 20 accident, he stated that there were no injuries. He stated to this reporting Inspector on an April 10th telephone conversation that he has damaged ribs from the accident. I have listed injuries on the Form 8020-23 as serious for one crew member. This injury did not make itself known until several days after the accident.

The CFI is receiving a 44709 due to not intervening and correcting the mishandling of the aircraft and preventing an accident. The CFI reported 0 hrs. in make & model.

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Signature