



Joshua Young
Air Safety Investigator
AS-ERA

Date: 5/4/2023

Subject: ERA23LA213, Pilot Statements to FAA

Contact: Matthew Cyrus, Aviation Safety Inspector, FAA

Inspector Cyrus spoke with both the flight instructor and student pilot and provided their statements to the IIC in an email attachment. They are attached below:

"Michael Scott Statement / Summary of Events

On April 13, it was my first day flight instructing after completing my 141 check out with Pittsburgh Flight Training Center (PFTC). He recalled the flight with Dan Dankwardt. They had departed in N544TH around 2:30PM local to the southern practice area, returning to Allegheny County Airport to practice landings. They completed 3 landings, the first landing resulted in a go-around. The second landing was flat, but firm. Landing on all 3 landing gear at the same time. The final landing was "hard" coming in steep and slow, I instructed the student to pull back, the aircraft ballooned up, then instructed the student to bump the power in, the power was applied too late and the aircraft landed hard in a nose high attitude. I questioned Mr. Scott about going around after the balloon, and he stated the thought never crossed his mind. Mr. Scott stated he had around 250 total hours with 70 in a Cessna 172, 17 in the recent 90 days and 2 total hours of dual given. Mr. Scott notified me his employment was terminated with PFTC after the incident. I asked if Mr. Scott completed a walk around after his flight, to which he stated no.

Dan Dankwardt Statement / Summary of Events

Dan stated that the entire flight was fairly normal up to the 3rd and final landing at Allegheny County Airport. Mike is a new instructor to him, hadn't flown with him before. During the approach to the runway, he recalled Mr. Scott instructing him rather boldly to pull back, pull back, pull back, which resulted in an abrupt motion resulting in the aircraft climbing. Dan mentioned he thought the aircraft was too far and nose high, and he thought about going around. He recalled that Mr. Scott told him, you got it, you got it. The aircraft began to stall and fell from approximately 8-10 feet to the runway. Dan, when questioned did recall that the landing was very hard, landing nose high, very quickly landing on the mains then nose. I asked Mr. Dankwardt if the landing felt like a car wreck, to which he responded, yes, it was very jolting and abrupt. He asked Mr. Scott to end the lesson after the flight. No post-flight walk around was conducted by the student."