

Daniel Boggs
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: 1/23/24

Subject: ERA24LA095

Contact: Mathew Lutz, Pilot,

Mr. Lutz was interviewed by telephone.

Mr. Lutz, Pilot stated that he and the flight instructor were flying around to different airports so he could build time for his instrument rating. The flight instructor was there as the safety pilot. They departed McKellar-Sipes Regional Airport (MKL), Jackson, Tennessee, about 1700 eastern standard time and flew to Kyle-Oakley Field Airport (CEY), Murray, Kentucky, for a touch and go landing. Then they headed back towards MKL around 1800, at a cruise altitude of 6,500 ft mean sea level. The pilot heard a “loud bang” and the airplane started to “shake violently.” The flight instructor took over control of the airplane and they diverted straight to Henty County Airport (PHT), Paris, Tennessee. The engine lost all power, and they knew they would not make the runway. They were going to try and land in the grass before the end of the runway, but the main landing gear contacted the perimeter fence and flipped them over, resulting in substantial damage to the wings and firewall. They egressed the airplane and waited for assistance to arrive.