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Date: 08/06/2024
Subject: ERA24LA317
Contact: Serafino Nasso - Pilot

The following is an excerpt from an email sent from the pilot to the NTSB IIC regarding his statement of events for the accident involving N8201R:

I was flying out to Montauk [KMTP] with my fiance Sunday afternoon from Danbury [KDXR]. We left at about 2pm. Everything was fine during the flight, calm winds, no issues. We entered a right downwind for runway 24, I went through landing check list [I put the gear down when I was downwind]. When I was on final my speed was about 80mph with full flaps. Everything was smooth and no turbulence but as soon as we passed over the high terrain just before the runway we hit some turbulence and the plane sunk very fast. I tried to put the power in to slow down the drop but I must have been too low and I hit the runway pretty hard. My first instinct was to try to do a go around but my left wing was up so high and when I accelerated the airplane was at an angle that I thought that it would have flipped over or would have went up and stalled so I took out the throttle. The plane was heading right and then took a left turn into bushes on the left side of the runway. It happened so fast that I can't remember if I might have hit the rudder for it to go left. The engine was still running when we stopped so I shut it off. We got out of the plane pretty quickly because I had full fuel. I went later to check if any fuel leaked out but it didn't look it. Thank you.

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