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Date: September 19, 2025
Subject: ERA25LA325, Pilot Statement
Contact: Steve Immerman, Pilot, N628FN

The following statement was sent via email by Steve Immerman regarding the accident involving Cessna 182S, N628FN that occurred on August 31, 2025.

Winds were 070 @ 9kn.

This was going to be a cross country flight to KEYE.

We contacted the FBO and had the plane filled to the tabs. After filling, I verified fuel and measured 62 gallons with the dipstick tube. I also pulled fuel from the 5 wing sumps on each side and 2 belly locations.

I then started, listened to AWOS, set my instruments and flight plan and then taxied to the runup area. I performed the runup. I incorrectly didn't set the flaps to 10 degrees.

While departing the runway 01, I rotated at 55 knots. However, I was having difficulty gaining altitude due to my incorrect flap setting so I remained in ground effect. The cross wind pushed me left of the runway and my left wheel caught a runway marking sign. This sign broke off and hooked onto the horizontal stabilizer before falling off approximately 1000 feet later. I was able to land in a field to the west side of the runway. All four occupants exited the plane without injury.