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Date: December 1, 2022

Subject: WPR21FA353

Contact: Riley Stephens - Pilot

During a telephone conversation with Mr. Stephens, he reported they had departed from eastern Colorado, however, he couldn't remember the name of the airport, but it was the last leg of the trip and they were returning from Texas. Mr. Stephens said that as they were closer to their destination, it was starting to get dusk, and recalled voicing his concern about it getting dark with no runway lights. Mr. Stephens remembers voicing his concern about it getting dark, no runway lights, etc.. Mr. Stephens said that he was hesitant about the landing, however, his father reassured him about the landing. As they entered the pattern, Mr. Stephens said he was feeling okay, and ran through the checklist. Mr. Stephens mentioned that as they were coming into land, his father noticed something was wrong before Mr. Stephens did, and that his father kept saying add power, add power, then his father motioned to add power.

Mr. Stephens stated that he didn't know what happened when the airplane touched the ground or what turned the airplane to left toward the trees. Mr. Stephens recalled that once they were aimed for the trees, he felt "panic panic panic" followed by a "moment of acceptance" and "stopped controlling the airplane for the last second or two" which "felt like an eternity." He added that the engine was running the entire time.

When asked about why the airplane went left, Mr. Stephens "chalks it up to floating the landing somehow." Mr. Stephens said everything was normal, until the airplane turned left, and "something made the left wing hit the ground first, instead of the wheels." Mr. Stephens added that nothing on the airplane was "broke" or "needed to be fixed frequently."