

Michael Hicks
Air Safety Investigator
OAS-WPR

Date: December 1st, 2023
Subject: WPR23LA363
Contact: Pilot-in-command (PIC): John Bak

The following is a synopsis of communication as relayed by the PIC in N2957N during an accident at Chemehuevi Valley Airport (49X), Chemehuevi, California that occurred August 13, 2023@1500pdt.

The day of the accident, the PIC reported that during landing at 49X, he believed that he encountered wind shear on runway 16 and the airplane exited the left side of the runway. The meteorological aerodrome report located 4 miles northeast from the accident site indicated that about the time of the accident, the wind was out of 140° at 8 knots and variable between 100° and 160°, the temperature was 107° F, and the dew point was 44° F, with visibility greater than 10 nautical miles.

When the PIC called in to report the accident, he indicated that the resulting damage was not substantial, albeit the right main landing gear had separated from the airplane, and the nose landing gear had failed. During the days after the accident, the pilot ceased communication, and the Western Pacific Region Duty Officer (DO) tracked the airplane to Fullerton, California. Additional photographs provided of the accident airplane revealed substantial damage to the wing spar. The PIC reported no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

NOTHING FOLLOWS