



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Location: | Louisville, KY | Accident Number: | ERA20LA053 |
| Date & Time: | 12/10/2019, 1303 EST | Registration: | N9097W |
| Aircraft: | PIPER PA28 | Injuries: | 1 None |
| Flight Conducted Under: | Part 91: General Aviation - Personal | | |

On December 10, 2019, about 1303 eastern standard time, a Piper PA-28-235, N9097W, was substantially damaged during landing at Bowman Field Airport (LOU), Louisville, Kentucky. The commercial pilot was not injured. The airplane was being operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 personal flight. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed at the time and no flight plan was filed for the flight that departed from Bowling Green-Warren County Regional Airport, Bowling Green, Kentucky, about 1215.

The pilot stated that he was on the return-leg of a two-leg round-trip flight and he contacted the LOU air traffic control tower and reported a 3 mile left base position for runway 24. He was cleared for a visual approach to runway 24 and began descending to traffic pattern altitude while he performed before landing procedures, and reduced speed. He turned onto the final leg of the airport traffic pattern for runway 24 and descended to the runway using the visual approach slope indicator (VASI) for reference with no "irregular indications of plane operation." Automated terminal information service "zulu" was current and included wind from 280° at 7 knots. He maintained approach speed with a slight crosswind configuration and descended. When in ground effect he began to flare the airplane, when suddenly the nose "jerked down" and he was unable to physically manipulate the control yoke. The airplane impacted the pavement of runway 24 with the nose gear, causing it to collapse. He added that the airplane was at a speed just above the stall light activation airspeed. The airplane came to rest at about the runway aiming point, left of the runway center line with the nose and left main landing gears in grass, and the right main landing gear wheel still on runway.

The pilot secured the electrical system, turned off the fuel selector and exited the airplane.

The airplane was recovered and retained for further examination.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Aircraft Make: | PIPER | Registration: | N9097W |
| Model/Series: | PA28 235 | Aircraft Category: | Airplane |
| Amateur Built: | No | | |
| Operator: | On file | Operating Certificate(s) Held: | None |

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

| | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Conditions at Accident Site: | Visual Conditions | Condition of Light: | Day |
| Observation Facility, Elevation: | KLOU, 546 ft msl | Observation Time: | 1253 EST |
| Distance from Accident Site: | | Temperature/Dew Point: | -1 °C / -12 °C |
| Lowest Cloud Condition: | Clear | Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction: | 7 knots / , 280° |
| Lowest Ceiling: | None | Visibility: | 10 Miles |
| Altimeter Setting: | 30.23 inches Hg | Type of Flight Plan Filed: | None |
| Departure Point: | Bowling Green, KY (BWG) | Destination: | Louisville, KY (LOU) |

Wreckage and Impact Information

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Crew Injuries: | 1 None | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Passenger Injuries: | N/A | Aircraft Fire: | None |
| Ground Injuries: | N/A | Aircraft Explosion: | None |
| Total Injuries: | 1 None | Latitude, Longitude: | 38.230833, -85.657778 (est) |

Administrative Information

| | |
|--|--|
| Investigator In Charge (IIC): | Timothy W Monville |
| Additional Participating Persons: | Ronald Killingsworth; FAA/FSDO; Louisville, KY |
| Note: | The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident. |