



AVIATION



HIGHWAY



MARINE



RAILROAD



PIPELINE

# Aviation Investigation Final Report

|                                |                                      |                         |             |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Location:</b>               | Watkins, Colorado                    | <b>Accident Number:</b> | CEN23LA253  |
| <b>Date &amp; Time:</b>        | June 10, 2023, 12:15 Local           | <b>Registration:</b>    | N6886P      |
| <b>Aircraft:</b>               | Piper PA-24-250                      | <b>Aircraft Damage:</b> | Substantial |
| <b>Defining Event:</b>         | Landing gear not configured          | <b>Injuries:</b>        | 1 None      |
| <b>Flight Conducted Under:</b> | Part 91: General aviation - Personal |                         |             |

## Analysis

The pilot reported that shortly before touchdown he noticed the landing gear selector still in the up position. The pilot moved the selector to the down position, but the landing gear were unable to fully extend before touchdown. The bottom of the fuselage was substantially damage during the wheels-up landing. The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

Additionally, the pilot reported he did not use a prelanding checklist to ensure that the landing was extended before touchdown.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The pilot's failure to extend the landing gear before landing. Contributing to the accident was the pilot's failure to utilize the prelanding checklist to ensure the landing gear was extended before landing.

## Findings

|                  |                                   |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Personnel issues | Use of equip/system - Pilot       |
| Personnel issues | Forgotten action/omission - Pilot |
| Personnel issues | Use of checklist - Pilot          |

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

|                                |                                              |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Landing-flare/touchdown</b> | Landing gear not configured (Defining event) |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|

### Pilot Information

|                                  |                                                                                                                                                             |                                          |                  |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Certificate:</b>              | Private                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Age:</b>                              | 78,Male          |
| <b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>       | Single-engine land                                                                                                                                          | <b>Seat Occupied:</b>                    | Left             |
| <b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b> | None                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Restraint Used:</b>                   | Lap only         |
| <b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>     | None                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Second Pilot Present:</b>             | No               |
| <b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>     | None                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Toxicology Performed:</b>             |                  |
| <b>Medical Certification:</b>    | BasicMed Without waivers/limitations                                                                                                                        | <b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>            | June 27, 2022    |
| <b>Occupational Pilot:</b>       | No                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b> | January 13, 2023 |
| <b>Flight Time:</b>              | 704 hours (Total, all aircraft), 122 hours (Total, this make and model), 510 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 4.6 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft) |                                          |                  |

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

|                                      |                              |                                       |                 |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Aircraft Make:</b>                | Piper                        | <b>Registration:</b>                  | N6886P          |
| <b>Model/Series:</b>                 | PA-24-250                    | <b>Aircraft Category:</b>             | Airplane        |
| <b>Year of Manufacture:</b>          | 1960                         | <b>Amateur Built:</b>                 |                 |
| <b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>    | Normal                       | <b>Serial Number:</b>                 | 24-2022         |
| <b>Landing Gear Type:</b>            | Retractable - Tricycle       | <b>Seats:</b>                         | 4               |
| <b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b> | June 1, 2023 Annual          | <b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>       | 3000 lbs        |
| <b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>   | 1 Hrs                        | <b>Engines:</b>                       | 1 Reciprocating |
| <b>Airframe Total Time:</b>          | 4510 Hrs at time of accident | <b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>           | Lycoming        |
| <b>ELT:</b>                          | Installed, not activated     | <b>Engine Model/Series:</b>           | O-540-A         |
| <b>Registered Owner:</b>             | On file                      | <b>Rated Power:</b>                   | 250 Horsepower  |
| <b>Operator:</b>                     | On file                      | <b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b> | None            |

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

|                                         |                                  |                                             |                  |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>     | Visual (VMC)                     | <b>Condition of Light:</b>                  | Day              |
| <b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b> | KCFO, 5515 ft msl                | <b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>         | 0 Nautical Miles |
| <b>Observation Time:</b>                | 11:47 Local                      | <b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>        |                  |
| <b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>          | Clear                            | <b>Visibility</b>                           | 10 miles         |
| <b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>                  | None                             | <b>Visibility (RVR):</b>                    |                  |
| <b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>                | 6 knots /                        | <b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>     | /                |
| <b>Wind Direction:</b>                  | 70°                              | <b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b> | /                |
| <b>Altimeter Setting:</b>               | 30.04 inches Hg                  | <b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>               | 22°C / 9°C       |
| <b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>   | No Obscuration; No Precipitation |                                             |                  |
| <b>Departure Point:</b>                 | Watkins, CO (CFO)                | <b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>           | None             |
| <b>Destination:</b>                     | Watkins, CO                      | <b>Type of Clearance:</b>                   | VFR              |
| <b>Departure Time:</b>                  | 11:45 Local                      | <b>Type of Airspace:</b>                    | Class D          |

## Airport Information

|                             |                                |                                  |                            |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Airport:</b>             | Colorado Air and Spaceport CFO | <b>Runway Surface Type:</b>      | Asphalt                    |
| <b>Airport Elevation:</b>   | 5515 ft msl                    | <b>Runway Surface Condition:</b> | Dry                        |
| <b>Runway Used:</b>         | 8                              | <b>IFR Approach:</b>             | None                       |
| <b>Runway Length/Width:</b> | 8002 ft / 100 ft               | <b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>     | Full stop; Traffic pattern |

## Wreckage and Impact Information

|                            |        |                             |                             |
|----------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Crew Injuries:</b>      | 1 None | <b>Aircraft Damage:</b>     | Substantial                 |
| <b>Passenger Injuries:</b> | N/A    | <b>Aircraft Fire:</b>       | None                        |
| <b>Ground Injuries:</b>    | N/A    | <b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>  | None                        |
| <b>Total Injuries:</b>     | 1 None | <b>Latitude, Longitude:</b> | 39.793656, -104.54977 (est) |

## Administrative Information

|                                          |                                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>     | Finne, Andrew                                                                                           |
| <b>Additional Participating Persons:</b> | Joshua Friederichs; FAA-FSDO; Denver, CO                                                                |
| <b>Original Publish Date:</b>            | August 31, 2023                                                                                         |
| <b>Last Revision Date:</b>               |                                                                                                         |
| <b>Investigation Class:</b>              | <a href="#">Class 4</a>                                                                                 |
| <b>Note:</b>                             | The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.                                                  |
| <b>Investigation Docket:</b>             | <a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=192424">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=192424</a> |

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