



NTSB MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

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National Transportation Safety Board

Date: 4/22/2021
Person Contacted: Dan Butler (FAA Inspector)
NTSB Accident Number: ERA21FA189

Narrative:

Mr. Dan Butler provided a summary via email pertaining to the disposition of the wreckage at the accident site. The following contains excerpts of the summary:

Piper PA-28RT-201T, N4303G departed Pearland Regional Airport (LVJ) near Houston Texas for Murray-Calloway Co. Airport (CEY) near Murray Kentucky at approximately 5:25 PM CDT.

At 0205Z [2105 CDT] an Alert Notice (ALNOT) was issued by Memphis Air Route Traffic Control Center (ZME) for N4303G. A search was conducted by Haywood county sheriff and county emergency response team.

The wreckage was found the following morning in a swampy wooded area in and above the banks of cypress creek. FAA inspectors from the Memphis flight standards (FSDO) were dispatched to the accident location.

Sections of both wings, empennage, fuselage, cockpit and human remains were found in a pile near the center of the creek and imbedded in the mud below the surface of the water.

First impact appears to be the main landing gear hitting a tree 120 feet west of the main wreckage. Both Main gear struts and wheel assemblies were sheared from the aircraft and located above the creek near the bank and 50 ft. west of the main wreckage.

Both came to rest within 10 feet of each other below a stand of large trees. A 10ft piece of the center fuselage bottom, including one of the landing gear strut attached points, was found 40 feet south and west of the main gear struts in the center of the creek. The creek bank has several large trees that could account for



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the gear shearing on the final 100ft descent, but no conclusive scars were identified.

The debris field was in a 100 ft line with a large percentage on the wreckage in a single pile near the center of cypress creek. All four corners were difficult to identify due to the breakup and severe damage.

The engine was buried under 3 feet of mud and removed for further investigation.