



## RECORD OF CONVERSATION

**Joshua Lindberg**  
**Air Safety Investigator**  
**Central Region**

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**Date:** 7/30/2021 and 8/1/2021  
**Person Contacted:** Bill Pickens, pilot  
**NTSB Accident Number:** CEN21LA344

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**Narrative:** In conversations with Mr. Pickens, he stated the following:

He was flying his ultralight airplane at the ultralight field with a passenger on his third flight of the day. He described the runway as “very rough and bumpy” and there was also a wind gust. During landing the airplane bounced a few times. The first bounce was hard, and the airplane came back into the air about 5 ft. It continued to bounce toward the end of the runway, but he knew he didn’t have enough room to complete a go-around. He applied the hand brakes, which did not feel like they had any pressure. They felt like there was no fluid in the brake lines. The airplane continued into a ditch and came to rest next to the perimeter road.

After he found out that the brakes were examined and worked without issue, he stated that maybe the airplane was still in the air when he applied the brakes, which is why they didn’t work as expected.

End of conversation summary.

Mr. Pickens also provided a brief written statement below:

“I William Pickens was landing on the ultralight field at Oshkosh. I had set down when I hit a large bump on the runway [which] brought me back up. It [bounced] twice, then the third time it set down good I [used] the brakes and [there seemed] to be nothing. I should have powered up and went around but I made a bad judgment.”



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**Date:** August 1, 2021  
**Person Contacted:** Peter Corrao, MKE FSDO Inspector  
**NTSB Accident Number:** CEN21LA344

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**Narrative:** In a conversation with Inspector Corrao, he stated the following:

The airplane's brakes were examined at the recovery facility on 8/1/21. The brake lines were intact with hydraulic fluid as expected. The rest of the brake system appeared normal with no issues noted. A functional test was completed, and the brakes work as expected.

End of conversation.