



Aviation Investigation Preliminary Report

Location:	Lafayette, IN	Accident Number:	CEN24LA157
Date & Time:	April 11, 2024, 20:21 Local	Registration:	N564PU
Aircraft:	Piper PA-28-161	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Unknown		

On April 11, 2024, about 2021 eastern daylight time, a Piper PA-28-161 airplane, N564PU, was destroyed when it was involved in an accident near Lafayette, Indiana. The pilot sustained fatal injuries. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 personal flight.

According to Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) data, the airplane departed the Purdue University Airport (LAF), Lafayette, Indiana, about 1940, for a local night flight. The airplane departed runway 28, conducted four traffic pattern landings, and then continued northwest and climbed to about 4,000 ft mean sea level. About 10 miles from LAF, the data showed the airplane make numerous turns before ADS-B data was lost about 2021.

The airplane wreckage was located the next day by local law enforcement about 1400.

The wreckage was retained for further examination.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N564PU
Model/Series:	PA-28-161	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Amateur Built:			
Operator:	PURDUE AVIATION LLC	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	Pilot school (141)
Operator Designator Code:			

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	VMC	Condition of Light:	Night
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KLAF,596 ft msl	Observation Time:	19:54 Local
Distance from Accident Site:	3 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	14°C /3°C
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	11 knots / , 300°
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 8000 ft AGL	Visibility:	10 miles
Altimeter Setting:	29.93 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Departure Point:	West Lafayette, IN (LAF)	Destination:	West Lafayette, IN (LAF)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:		Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	40.417214,-86.870196 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Finne, Andrew
Additional Participating Persons:	Pietras, Aaron; FAA-FSDO; Indianapolis, IN
Investigation Class:	Class 3
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.