



## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

**Heidi Kemner**  
**Senior Air Safety Investigator**  
**Eastern Region Aviation**

**October 21, 2022**

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**Subject:** ERA23LA031  
**What:** Kenneth Pennell – Pilot

In a telephone conversation, Mr. Pennell stated the following:

- He and his instructor met at 4PM on the 14<sup>th</sup> and planned on doing a long cross-country flight for his instrument rating.
- He was not night current, but his instructor was.
- The purpose of the flight was to get night current and to do the long cross country.
- They departed MBT around 7 PM and got their clearance in the air.
- The first leg of the flight was to Bardstown (BRY)
- They attempted to fill up the airplane with fuel there because the next two airports they would not be able to do so.
- They tried but the fuel farm was not working properly, so they did not get fuel.
- They made an unplanned stop to 6I2 to get fuel there instead, which was a few miles away.
- Then they intended to fly from there, to Cincinnati, then to Louisville, then Bowling Green.
- When they picked up the clearance in the air, they were good to go into Cincinnati, but they could not land at Louisville because it was a busy time for that airport.
- After departing Cincinnati, the controller mentioned how strong the winds were and he noticed that as well.
- He and his instructor did fuel calculations and began looking for an alternate to pick up fuel because they wouldn't make it to the intended destination with the correct reserves without making a fuel stop.
- They found Elizabethtown and landed there. The landing was uneventful.
- He noticed the windscreen was dirty and even intended to clean the windscreen when they stopped to fuel up the airplane in Elizabethtown.

- After turning off the runway, they began taxiing toward the Fixed Based Operator (FBO) and fuel farm.
- The taxiway edge lights ended and there were no edge markings.
- The hangars and FBO in front of them had very bright lights and they both believed they were on the taxiway.
- As he was taxiing the airplane, he felt the surface change underneath them.
- He tried to slow the airplane by reducing engine power and braking, but the airplane continued off the taxiway and came to rest in a ditch.
- He and the flight instructor exited the airplane and tried to make the necessary calls, but they were told to call back in the morning, since it was so late at night.
- The left main landing gear was bent back and the left wing and left horizontal stabilizer was bent and the skin was rippled.