



Aviation Investigation Preliminary Report

Location:	Boscobel, WI	Accident Number:	CEN25LA053
Date & Time:	December 1, 2024, 18:21 Local	Registration:	N41997
Aircraft:	Piper PA-28R-200	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Instructional		

On December 1, 2024, at 1821 central standard time, a Piper PA-28R-200 airplane, N41997, sustained substantial damage when it was involved in an accident near Boscobel, Wisconsin. The flight instructor and pilot receiving instruction were not injured. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 instructional flight.

According to the flight instructor, they were established in cruise on the return leg of a night cross-country instructional flight at 9,000 ft mean sea level, when they noticed an odor in the cockpit. The flight instructor noted no issues in the cockpit, and adjusted the heat control, in which the odor diminished. The flight instructor then noticed an opaque windscreen and immediately thought they had encountered icing conditions. The flight instructor contacted air traffic control (ATC) and requested a lower altitude. Utilizing a flashlight, the flight instructor illuminated the windscreen and noticed a “brown river” completely obscuring their forward visibility. The cockpit oil pressure gauge indicated little to no oil pressure.

The flight instructor declared an emergency with ATC and took the airplane controls from the pilot receiving instruction. The flight instructor located the nearest airport to attempt a forced landing. During the forced landing to the airport with the windscreen covered in engine oil, the airplane impacted terrain adjacent to the runway surface, bounced, and came to rest upright. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the right horizontal stabilator.

Postaccident examination of the airplane revealed engine oil on the top engine cowling, windscreen, and empennage. No evidence of an uncontained engine failure was noted. The airplane was retained for further examination.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N41997
Model/Series:	PA-28R-200	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Amateur Built:			
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Designator Code:			

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	VMC	Condition of Light:	NightDark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KOVS,666 ft msl	Observation Time:	18:53 Local
Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	-10°C /-14°C
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	4 knots / , 20°
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility:	10 miles
Altimeter Setting:	30.34 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Departure Point:	Fairmont, MN (FRM)	Destination:	Lake in the Hills, IL (3CK)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:		Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	43.15947,-90.678168 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Sauer, Aaron
Additional Participating Persons:	John Bohnhoff; FAA; Milwaukee, WI
Investigation Class:	Class 3
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.