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## Plane lands safely without landing gear in Franklin Twp.

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Members of the Condor Aero Club walk alongside a Piper Arrow II while it is being transported on a trailer at the Zelienople Municipal Airport. Ross Edmondson, of Sewickley, landed the plane safely on the plane's belly after the landing gear malfunctioned Sunday afternoon. - Sally Maxson of The Times

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FRANKLIN TWP. -- A two-person, recreational aircraft safely executed an emergency crash landing Sunday afternoon at the Zelienople Municipal Airport.

Pilot Ross Edmondson, 33, of Sewickley, landed his Piper Arrow II plane just before 6 p.m. without any major consequences after he recognized his landing gear wasn't functioning properly.

"We found out there was a problem when we tried to put our landing gear down, so I radioed my club members that were here on the ground," Edmondson said. "They sent up another aircraft to fly information and inspect (the landing gear), but in the end we couldn't get it down."

Edmondson is a member of the airport's Condor Aero Club and has 10 years of flying experience, including 1,150 hours of flight time under his belt. He said situations like having to land without proper landing gear are something all pilots train for.

"It's very unusual, but you do a lot of training for the unlikely eventualities, so there wasn't any concern or panic," he said. "We already knew what we had to do."

The club called local emergency responders and authorities to the scene while the plane was still in flight, but Edmondson and a female passenger were not injured in the landing.