



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	SANTA BARBARA, CA	Accident Number:	LAX87FA028
Date & Time:	10/30/1986, 1935 PST	Registration:	N137WW
Aircraft:	FAIRCHILD SWEARINGEN SA-226TC	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Serious, 2 Minor, 11 None

Flight Conducted Under: Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter - Scheduled

Analysis

ON A DARK NIGHT, IN CAVU WEATHER, THE CAPTAIN DIRECTED THE FIRST OFFICER (WHO WAS FLYING) TO DISARM THE LANDING GEAR WARNING HORN SYSTEM BY PULLING ITS CIRCUIT BREAKER. THE F/O COMPLIED & DID NOT CHALLENGE THE CAPTAIN. ON FINAL APPROACH THE F/O FAILED TO CHECK THAT HIS 'GEAR DOWN' COMMAND WAS COMPLIED WITH & THE CAPTAIN FORGOT TO LOWER THE GEAR. AS THE ACFT SLID TO A STOP ON ITS BELLY THE RIGHT ENGINE'S 3 PROP BLADES FRAGMENTED & PUNCTURED THE PASSENGER COMPARTMENT. THE 2 PAX WHO WERE SEATED IN ROW 2 ABEAM THE BLADES' PLANE OF ROTATION WERE STRUCK BY FRAGMENTS & RECEIVED SERIOUS LEG & MINOR FACIAL LACERATIONS.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

1. (C) WARNING SYSTEM(OTHER) - DISABLED
2. (C) CHECKLIST - NOT FOLLOWED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) CHECKLIST - INATTENTIVE - COPILOT/SECOND PILOT
4. (F) LACK OF TOTAL EXPERIENCE IN KIND OF AIRCRAFT - COPILOT/SECOND PILOT
5. (C) GEAR EXTENSION - NOT PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. (C) WHEELS UP LANDING - INADVERTENT - COPILOT/SECOND PILOT
7. (C) SUPERVISION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport	Age:	35, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	04/21/1986
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	10485 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2292 hours (Total, this make and model), 8900 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 262 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 83 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	FAIRCHILD SWEARINGEN	Registration:	N137WW
Model/Series:	SA-226TC SA-226TC	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	TC-401
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	18
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	AAIP	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	13230 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	27 Hours	Engines:	2 Turbo Prop
Airframe Total Time:	11024 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	GARRETT
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	TPE331-10-VA
Registered Owner:	FAIRCHILD AIRCRAFT CORP.	Rated Power:	840 hp
Operator:	WINGS WEST AIRLINES, INC.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	Commuter Air Carrier (135)
Operator Does Business As:	AMERICAN EAGLE	Operator Designator Code:	WWMA

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	SBA, 10 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1937 PST	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	6 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	10°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	20° C / 3° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	LOS ANGELES, CA (LAX)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	SANTA BARBARA, CA (SBA)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	1912 PST	Type of Airspace:	Class D; Class E

Airport Information

Airport:	SANTA BARBARA (SBA)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	10 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	25	IFR Approach:	Visual
Runway Length/Width:	6049 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full Stop; Straight-in

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Serious, 2 Minor, 9 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious, 2 Minor, 11 None	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	WAYNE POLLACK	Report Date:	08/11/1988
Additional Participating Persons:	ROBERT ROEHM; VAN NUYS, CA JACK D MORGAN; SAN ANTONIO, TX		
Publish Date:			
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at pubinq@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).