



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	GILROY, CA	Accident Number:	LAX83LA207
Date & Time:	05/01/1983, 0750 PDT	Registration:	N1785S
Aircraft:	AERO COMMANDER 600 S-2D	Injuries:	1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Analysis

PRIOR TO TAKEOFF, THE ACFT WAS FULLY FUELED WITH 100 GAL OF AVIATION GASOLINE & WAS LOADED WITH 300 GAL OF NON-TOXIC FUNGICIDAL MIX. THE PLT TOOK OFF, FLEW APRX 5 MI TO A FIELD, AND AFTER CIRCLING OVER THE FIELD, MADE 2 SWATH RUNS. DURING A PROCEDURE TURN AFTER THE 2ND SWATH RUN, THE ENGINE LOST POWER. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE ACFT CRASHED IN A STEEP, NOSE DOWN ATTITUDE. AN INVESTIGATION REVEALED THAT A PORTION OF THE #5 CYLINDER WAS MISSING & WAS NOT WITH THE MAIN WRECKAGE. A VISUAL EXAM OF THE FRACTURE SURFACE INDICATED EVIDENCE OF FATIGUE.

Probable Cause

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - MECH FAILURE/MALF
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING - AERIAL APPLICATION

Findings

1. (C) ENGINE ASSEMBLY,CYLINDER - FATIGUE

Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: MANEUVERING

Findings

2. (C) AIRSPEED - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) STALL - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	27
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Instructor Rating(s):	
Flight Time:	540 hours (Total, all aircraft), 132 hours (Total, this make and model), 450 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 100 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	AERO COMMANDER	Registration:	N1785S
Model/Series:	600 S-2D 600 S-2D	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	SHELTON CROPDUSTING, INC.	Engine Manufacturer:	P&W
Operating Certificate(s) Held:		Engine Model/Series:	R-1340-AN1
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	SJC, 56 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	3 knots / , 140°
Temperature:	12° C	Visibility	20 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	SAN MARTIN, CA (Q99)	Destination:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	WAYNE POLLACK	Adopted 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 pubinquiry@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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