



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Factual Report

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<b>Location:</b>	BRIDGEPORT, CA	<b>Accident Number:</b>	LAX94LA336
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	07/19/1962, 2345 PDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N5069P
<b>Aircraft:</b>	PIPER PA24-180	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	4 Fatal
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

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On July 19, 1962, about 2345 hours Pacific daylight time, a Piper PA24-180, N5069P, collided with mountainous terrain about 22 miles southwest of Bridgeport, California. The airplane was being operated as a visual flight rules (VFR) cross-country personal flight to Sacramento, California, when the accident occurred. The airplane, operated by Capitol Skypark Inc., Sacramento, California, was destroyed by impact and postimpact fire. The certificated commercial pilot and three passengers received fatal injuries. A VFR flight plan was not filed. The flight originated from Fresno, California, about 2300 hours.

A Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) operations inspector, Fresno Flight Standards District Office, reported that a U.S. Park Service trail crew from the Yosemite National Park discovered the airplane on August 8, 1994, in a remote section of the park about 9,200 feet mean sea level. The location is in the Stubblefield Canyon drainage, north of the Pacific Crest hiking trail, below the Macomb Ridge. The FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board do not have any records of the accident flight. The registration number of the airplane was retired and reassigned by the FAA to another aircraft in 1972.

A U.S. Park Service investigator reported that, during a coroner's investigation conducted jointly by the park service and Tuolumne County investigators, family members of the pilot and passengers provided details about the flight. See attached park service report.

The pilot held a commercial pilot certificate with an airplane single-engine land rating. The pilot also held an aircraft mechanic certificate with airframe and powerplant ratings. No record of the pilot's last medical certificate was retained by the FAA. No personal flight records were located for the pilot. No aircraft maintenance records for the airplane were located.

The recovered remains of the occupants were turned over to the Tuolumne County Coroner's Office, 28 N. Lower Sunset Dr., Sonora, California, by park ranger personnel.

The accident was located at latitude 38 degrees, 03.959 minutes north, and longitude 119 degrees, 35.674 minutes west.

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	26, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine Land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Unknown Unknown	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>		<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>			

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	PIPER	<b>Registration:</b>	N5069P
<b>Model/Series:</b>	PA24-180 PA24-180	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	No
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	24-75
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Retractable - Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	4
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	Unknown	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	2550 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>		<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>		<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-360-A1A
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	ROBERT WATTS, SR.	<b>Rated Power:</b>	180 hp
<b>Operator:</b>	CAPITAL SKYPARK INC.	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Unknown	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0000	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility	0 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	FRESNO, CA (FAT)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	SACRAMENTO, CA (SAC)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	2300 PDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

## Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	3 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	Unknown
Total Injuries:	4 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	SCOTT R ERICKSON
Additional Participating Persons:	JIM HENRY; FRESNO, CA GREG P JABLONSKI; YOSEMITE, CA
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 <a href="mailto:pubinq@ntsb.gov">pubinq@ntsb.gov</a> , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/</a> .