



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

<b>Location:</b>	Palmdale, CA	<b>Accident Number:</b>	LAX04LA112
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	02/01/2004, 1627 PST	<b>Registration:</b>	N4861F
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Piper PA-28-181	<b>Injuries:</b>	4 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

The airplane collided with power lines during a forced landing following a loss of engine power. After about 2 hours 40 minutes of flight, the pilot retarded the throttle to begin his descent into an airport where he planned to refuel. The engine immediately lost power, and he felt roughness and a vibration. He turned the electric fuel boost pump on, and switched fuel tanks. The engine continued to sputter. He could not make a nearby airfield, and set up to land on a road. The airplane collided with power lines on the way down and the rudder separated from the airplane. The pilot was able to land on the road and then collided with multiple obstacles during the ground roll. Examination revealed that the fuel selector valve was on the right tank. The left fuel tank did not sustain mechanical damage, but the right tank was ruptured. There was about 1 quart of fuel in the left tank. There was about 50 milliliters of fuel in the gascolator and the carburetor contained about 75 milliliters of fuel. Fuel was added to the airplane and the engine was test run using the airplane systems. The engine started immediately. There were no leaks, and the engine did not hesitate, sputter, or backfire.

## Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: loss of engine power for undetermined reasons.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT

### Findings

1. (C) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED  
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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING  
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY DESCENT/LANDING  
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Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT  
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY DESCENT/LANDING

### Findings

2. OBJECT - WIRE, TRANSMISSION  
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Occurrence #4: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT

Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

#### Findings

- 3. OBJECT - FENCE POST
- 4. OBJECT - POLE

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Flight Instructor; Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	61
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine Land	<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	Airplane Single-engine
<b>Flight Time:</b>	1800 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1300 hours (Total, this make and model), 1600 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Piper	<b>Registration:</b>	N4861F
<b>Model/Series:</b>	PA-28-181	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Operator:</b>	Continental Flight Center	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Lycoming
<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-360-A4M
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

### Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual Conditions	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	PMD, 2559 ft msl	<b>Weather Information Source:</b>	Weather Observation Facility
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>	5 knots / , 260°
<b>Temperature:</b>	14° C	<b>Visibility</b>	10 Miles
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Bullhead City, AZ (IFP)	<b>Destination:</b>	Agua Dulce, CA (L70)

### Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	Auga Dulce Airpark (L70)	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Unknown
<b>Runway Used:</b>	NA	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Unknown
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>			

### Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	3 None	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	34.566667, -118.116667		

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): HOWARD D PLAGENS

Adopted Date: 10/31/2006

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](mailto: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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