



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

<b>Location:</b>	California City, CA	<b>Accident Number:</b>	LAX04CA175
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	04/02/2004, 1725 PST	<b>Registration:</b>	N88BM
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Cessna 177	<b>Injuries:</b>	4 Minor
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

## Analysis

The airplane collided with terrain during the takeoff initial climb. Prior to departure, the certified flight instructor (CFI) noted calm wind conditions. During the initial climb, about 50 to 75 feet above ground level, the airplane began to descend, while rolling and yawing to the right. The CFI could not maintain control of the airplane, and it continued in a 300-foot-per-minute descent. The airplane impacted the ground and a fire erupted. After egressing the airplane, the CFI noticed a strong shift in winds into tailwind conditions. A few minutes later, he noted that the winds became light again, followed by periodic gusts and wind shifts. The CFI reported that the airplane had no mechanical failures or malfunctions during the flight. The CFI reported that the airplane's gross weight was about 2,341 pounds, and the published maximum gross weight is 2,350 pounds.

## Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the certified flight instructor's failure to maintain an adequate airspeed, which resulted in a stall/mush condition and a collision with terrain. Factors in the accident were strong tailwind conditions and a sudden wind shift.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT  
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

### Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - SUDDEN WINDSHIFT
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - TAILWIND
3. (C) AIRSPEED - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND(CFI)
4. STALL/MUSH - ENCOUNTERED - PILOT IN COMMAND(CFI)

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Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

### Findings

5. TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND

## Flight Instructor Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Flight Instructor; Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	35
<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>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	982 hours (Total, all aircraft), 5 hours (Total, this make and model), 32 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Student	<b>Age:</b>	35
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	44 hours (Total, all aircraft), 43 hours (Total, this make and model), 24 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 12 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Cessna	<b>Registration:</b>	N88BM
<b>Model/Series:</b>	177	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Operator:</b>	Edwards AFB Aero Club	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Lycoming
<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-320-E2D
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual Conditions	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>		<b>Weather Information Source:</b>	Unknown
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>		<b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>	/ ,
<b>Temperature:</b>		<b>Visibility:</b>	
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>			
<b>Departure Point:</b>	California City, CA (L71)	<b>Destination:</b>	Rosamond, CA (L00)

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	California City Municipal Airp (L71)	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	
<b>Runway Used:</b>	24	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>			

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	2 Minor	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	2 Minor	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	On-Ground
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	
<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	35.152222, -118.016667		

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Nicole Charnon	<b>Adopted Date:</b>	06/30/2004
<b>Note:</b>	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	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> .		

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