



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Piru, CA	Accident Number:	LAX08LA211
Date & Time:	07/02/2008, 1310 PDT	Registration:	N25490
Aircraft:	CESSNA 152	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Aerial Observation		

Analysis

The pilot was performing a pipeline patrol flight and was maneuvering the airplane at low altitude along an expansive dry riverbed that was in a canyon that was on average about 1-mile wide. The pipeline was buried on the south bank of the river, just below a hillside that defined the southern boundary of the canyon. While following the pipeline the pilot came across an area of recent construction digging that had exposed the pipeline. A witness observed the airplane at a slow airspeed and low altitude near the site of the digging when the left wing suddenly dropped and the airplane dove straight down into a small ravine below. The airplane came to rest about 460 feet from the base of a mountain range that comprised the south wall of a 7,500-foot-wide canyon. No evidence of mechanical malfunction or failure was found during a postaccident examination of the airplane and engine.

Flight Events

Maneuvering-low-alt flying - Aerodynamic stall/spin
Uncontrolled descent - Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to maintain adequate airspeed while maneuvering at low altitude, which resulted in an aerodynamic stall.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-Airspeed-Not attained/maintained - C
Personnel issues-Task performance-Use of equip/info-Aircraft control-Pilot - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	55
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	6800 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	CESSNA	Registration:	N25490
Model/Series:	152	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Raw Power Aviation	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-235-L2C
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Aerial Observation		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	WHP, 1003 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	7 knots, 100°
Temperature:	32° C / 13° C	Visibility	20 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Los Angeles, CA (WHP)	Destination:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Zoe Keliher	Adopted Date:	05/06/2009
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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