



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

Location:	Santa Ynez, CA	Accident Number:	WPR19FA146
Date & Time:	05/15/2019, 1339 PDT	Registration:	N236AM
Aircraft:	Aviat A1	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

On May 15, 2019, about 1339 Pacific daylight time, an Aviat Aircraft Inc., A1-B airplane, N236AM, was destroyed when it impacted mountainous terrain about 8 miles northeast of the Santa Ynez Airport (IZA), Santa Ynez, California. The private pilot was fatally injured. The airplane was owned and operated by the pilot under the provisions of Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations Part 91* as a personal flight. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and no flight plan was filed for the cross-county flight, which originated at 1322 from a private ranch near Montecito, California.

Information provided by local law enforcement revealed that the pilot had flown to a private ranch, located about 23 miles east of IZA, earlier in the day. Following a brief visit with the owner of the ranch, the pilot departed on the return leg to IZA. About 2000, local law enforcement was notified by concerned friends and family that the pilot had not returned, and the Federal Aviation Administration issued an Alert Notice (ALNOT) shortly after. The wreckage of the airplane was located by a law enforcement air unit the morning of May 16.

Examination of the accident site revealed that the airplane impacted steep rising mountainous terrain at an elevation of about 2,700 ft msl, and an approximate heading of 284° magnetic. The main wreckage came to rest upright about 30 ft below the initial impact point and was mostly consumed by fire. All major structural components of the airplane were observed at the accident site. The wreckage was recovered to a secure facility for further examination.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Aviat	Registration:	N236AM
Model/Series:	A1 B	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Amateur Built:	No		
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KIZA, 671 ft msl	Observation Time:	2035 PDT
Distance from Accident Site:	8 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	20° C / 12° C
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 2500 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	6 knots / , 230°
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility:	10 Miles
Altimeter Setting:	29.92 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Departure Point:	Montecito, CA	Destination:	Santa Ynez, CA (KIZA)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	34.691111, -119.953333

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Joshua Cawthra
Additional Participating Persons:	Frank Motter; Federal Aviation Administration; Van Nuys, CA
Note:	The NTSB traveled to the scene of this accident.