

National Transportation Safety Board  
Washington, DC 20594

Brief of Accident

Adopted 03/28/2006

LAX05LA064  
File No. 19373                      01/12/2005                      El Cajon, CA                      Aircraft Reg No. N124JH                      Time (Local): 14:38 PST

Make/Model: Jimmy Hill / Lancair 235  
Engine Make/Model: Textron Lycoming / O-320  
Aircraft Damage: Substantial  
Number of Engines: 1  
Operating Certificate(s): None  
Type of Flight Operation: Personal  
Reg. Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation

	Fatal	Serious	Minor/None
Crew	1	0	0
Pass	0	1	0

Last Depart. Point: Yuma, AZ  
Destination: Same as Accident/Incident Location  
Airport Proximity: On Airport  
Airport Name: Gillespie Field  
Runway Identification: 27R  
Runway Length/Width (Ft): 5341 / 100  
Runway Surface: Asphalt  
Runway Surface Condition: Dry

Condition of Light: Day  
Weather Info Src: Weather Observation Facility  
Basic Weather: Visual Conditions  
Lowest Ceiling: None  
Visibility: 25.00 SM  
Wind Dir/Speed: Variable / 006 Kts  
Temperature (°C): 14  
Precip/Obscuration: No Obscuration; No Precipitation

Pilot-in-Command                      Age: 67

Flight Time (Hours)

Certificate(s)/Rating(s)  
Commercial; Single-engine Land  
Instrument Ratings  
None

Total All Aircraft: 289  
Last 90 Days: 15  
Total Make/Model: 96  
Total Instrument Time: UnK/Nr

The airplane collided with an airport boundary fence about 500 feet short of the runway's approach end while on final approach for landing. A witness driving a pickup truck said that she saw the airplane cross in front of her truck about 10 feet above the ground going very fast and low. Immediately after the airplane crossed her path, it struck the airport boundary fence with its right main landing gear and impacted the dirt terrain beyond. The wreckage was about 500 feet from the approach end of the runway, and about 1,800 feet from the runway's displaced threshold. The passenger of the airplane said that this was her first flight with the pilot. She recalls that the flight was very pleasant, and the pilot did not express any concerns regarding the airplane or the environment. As they approached the runway for landing the pilot said to her "Do you see the runway? I will reduce some power for landing." Moments after that statement the airplane collided with the airport boundary fence. Examination of the airplane revealed no evidence of a preimpact malfunction or failure of the control system or power plant.

Brief of Accident (Continued)

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Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT  
Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - FINAL APPROACH

Findings

1. OBJECT - FENCE
2. (C) PROPER GLIDEPATH - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

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

Findings

3. TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND

Findings Legend: (C) = Cause, (F) = Factor

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The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows.  
the pilot's failure to maintain the proper glidepath to avoid obstacles and terrain.