

**National Transportation Safety Board  
Washington, DC 20594**

**Brief of Accident**

**Adopted 03/28/2006**

|                                |  |                                    |  |              |  |                         |  |                                  |  |            |  |
|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|--------------|--|-------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|------------|--|
| LAX05LA064                     |  | 01/12/2005                         |  | El Cajon, CA |  | Aircraft Reg No. N124JH |  | Time (Local): 14:38 PST          |  |            |  |
| Make/Model:                    |  | Jimmy Hill / Lancair 235           |  |              |  | Fatal                   |  | Serious                          |  | Minor/None |  |
| Engine Make/Model:             |  | Textron Lycoming / O-320           |  |              |  | Crew                    |  | 1                                |  | 0          |  |
| Aircraft Damage:               |  | Substantial                        |  |              |  | Pass                    |  | 0                                |  | 1          |  |
| Number of Engines:             |  | 1                                  |  |              |  |                         |  |                                  |  |            |  |
| Operating Certificate(s):      |  | None                               |  |              |  |                         |  |                                  |  |            |  |
| Type of Flight Operation:      |  | Personal                           |  |              |  |                         |  |                                  |  |            |  |
| Reg. Flight Conducted Under:   |  | Part 91: General Aviation          |  |              |  |                         |  |                                  |  |            |  |
|                                |  |                                    |  |              |  |                         |  |                                  |  |            |  |
| Last Depart. Point:            |  | Yuma, AZ                           |  |              |  | Condition of Light:     |  | Day                              |  |            |  |
| Destination:                   |  | Same as Accident/Incident Location |  |              |  | Weather Info Src:       |  | Weather Observation Facility     |  |            |  |
| Airport Proximity:             |  | On Airport                         |  |              |  | Basic Weather:          |  | Visual Conditions                |  |            |  |
| Airport Name:                  |  | Gillespie Field                    |  |              |  | Lowest Ceiling:         |  | None                             |  |            |  |
| Runway Identification:         |  | 27R                                |  |              |  | Visibility:             |  | 25.00 SM                         |  |            |  |
| Runway Length/Width (Ft):      |  | 5341 / 100                         |  |              |  | Wind Dir/Speed:         |  | Variable / 006 Kts               |  |            |  |
| Runway Surface:                |  | Asphalt                            |  |              |  | Temperature (°C):       |  | 14                               |  |            |  |
| Runway Surface Condition:      |  | Dry                                |  |              |  | Precip/Obscuration:     |  | No Obscuration; No Precipitation |  |            |  |
|                                |  |                                    |  |              |  |                         |  |                                  |  |            |  |
| Pilot-in-Command               |  | Age: 67                            |  |              |  | Flight Time (Hours)     |  |                                  |  |            |  |
| Certificate(s)/Rating(s)       |  |                                    |  |              |  | Total All Aircraft:     |  | 289                              |  |            |  |
| Commercial; Single-engine Land |  |                                    |  |              |  | Last 90 Days:           |  | 15                               |  |            |  |
| Instrument Ratings             |  |                                    |  |              |  | Total Make/Model:       |  | 96                               |  |            |  |
| None                           |  |                                    |  |              |  | 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)

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

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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.